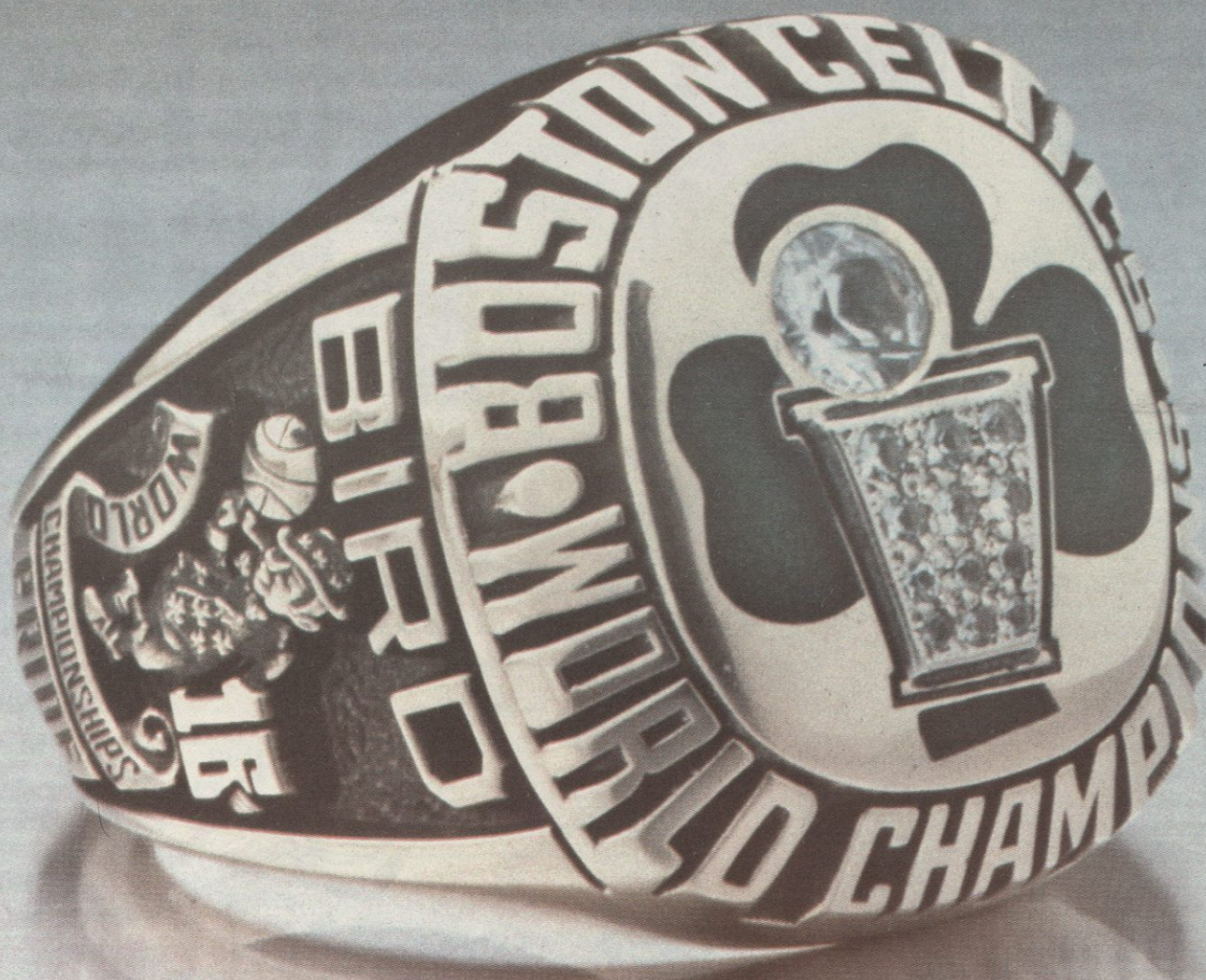
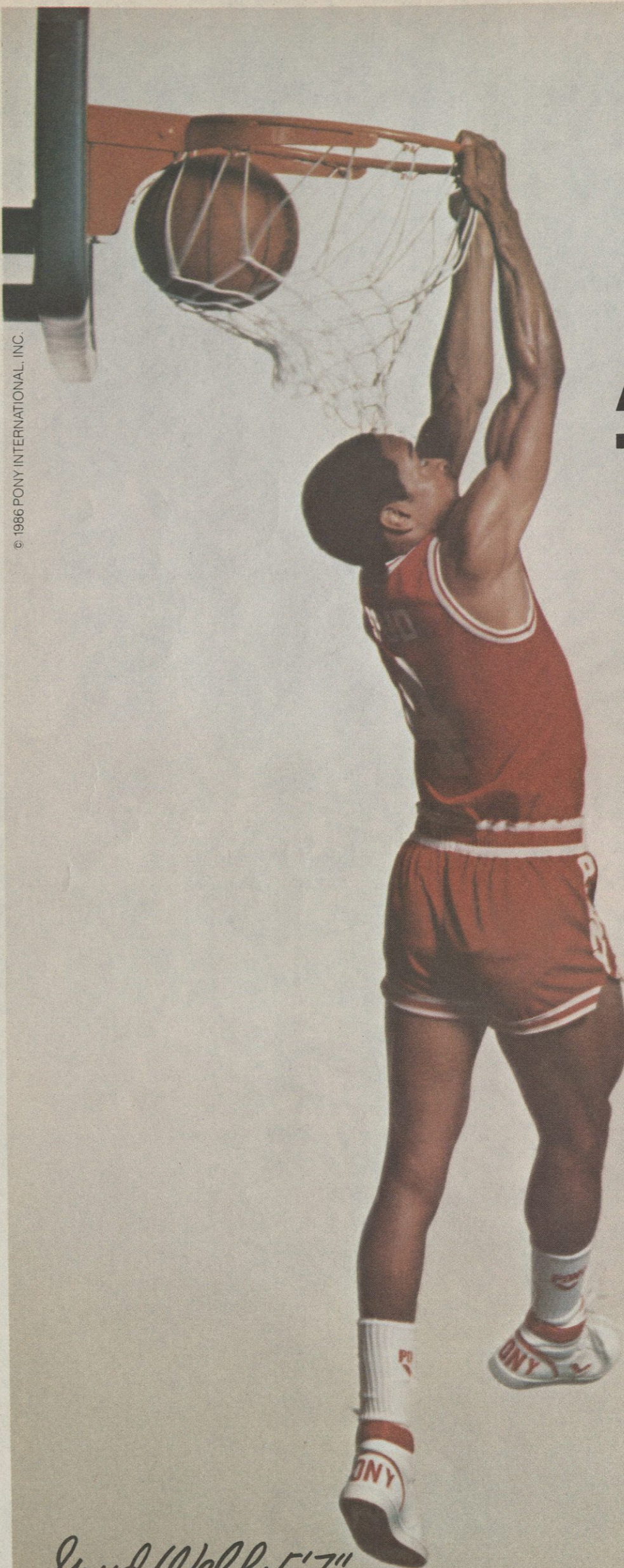


BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE



*Tribute to
Excellence*



TAKE 'EM TO THE HOOP

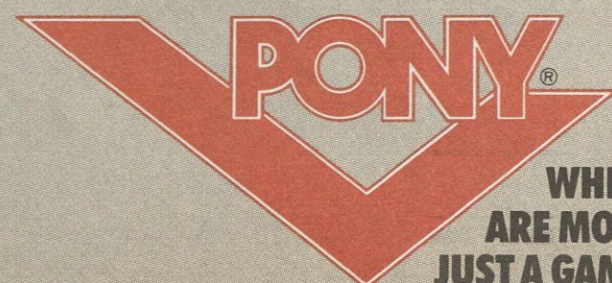
Pony is taking it to the hoop with Spud Webb and the most exciting basketball program in the business. Spud Webb, the 5'7" Dunkmaster of the pros, is the star of our national basketball campaign.

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Spud Webb 5'7"
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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2
NOVEMBER 17, 1986

Cover...

The presentation of the 1986 NBA World Championship ring is the crowning touch for last year's wonderful season. This cover shows Larry Bird's ring, which is a fitting tribute to excellence.

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The L.G. Balfour Company of Attleboro, Ma. has designed and produced the "crowning touch" to last year's Championship Season.

8... Sam Vincent

The continuing saga of Celtics guard Sam Vincent features education, education and more education.

10... NBA Preview

A general outlook of each team in the NBA as it relates to changes, strengths and weaknesses and the Celtics.

13... Chris Ford

This former Celtics sharpshooter is and has been making a very successful transition to being a very valuable and effective coach.

19... Matching Up

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26... Trade Evaluations

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Dukakis Wants Drug Free Schools by 1990



Gov. Dukakis poses for photo-mural along with team as part of anti-drug campaign.

Gov. Michael S. Dukakis announced plans to rid Massachusetts schools of drugs by 1990 "and create a healthy learning environment in which children say 'no' to drugs and 'yes' to a bright future."

The expanded statewide, community-based drug prevention and education campaign will be monitored by a first-in-the-nation annual survey which will measure the impact on students of drug abuse prevention programs.

Building on the nationally recognized Governor's Alliance Against Drugs, Dukakis's five-year plan calls for drug education curricula in every grade in every

Massachusetts school, expanded prevention and treatment programs, no-nonsense discipline and enforcement policies, parent and peer programs, and a survey that will follow 600 children over five years to see if key preventive education programs are helping young people to say "no" to drugs and alcohol.

"I want our schools to be drug free. That won't be easy but two years of experience with our alliance convinces me that students, parents, school administrators, police, businesses and health professionals working together can make it happen," Dukakis said.

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

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Executive Editor:

Tod Rosensweig

Managing Editor:

Porter C. McKinnon

Associate Editor:

Robert Schron

Associate Editor:

Tony Cooper

Associate Editor:

Mark Drefs

PUBLISHER:

Porter C. McKinnon
Weston Communications
49 Locust Avenue
New Canaan, CT 06840
203 - 966-6092

Advertising Director:

Mark Lev
617-523-6050

Subscription Inquiries:

Mark Drefs: 203-966-6092

Staff Photographer:

Steve Lipofsky

Contributing Photographer:

Nat Butler

Contributing Writers:

Terry Lyons
Red Auerbach
K.C. Jones
Glenn Ordway
M.L. Carr
Eddie Gillooly
Larry Donald

Production Director:

Mark Drefs

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"LITE'S TASTE IS THE BIGGEST THING I'VE RUN INTO SINCE BOB'S SHOES."

Dave Cowens
Basketball Great

Bob Lanier
Basketball Great



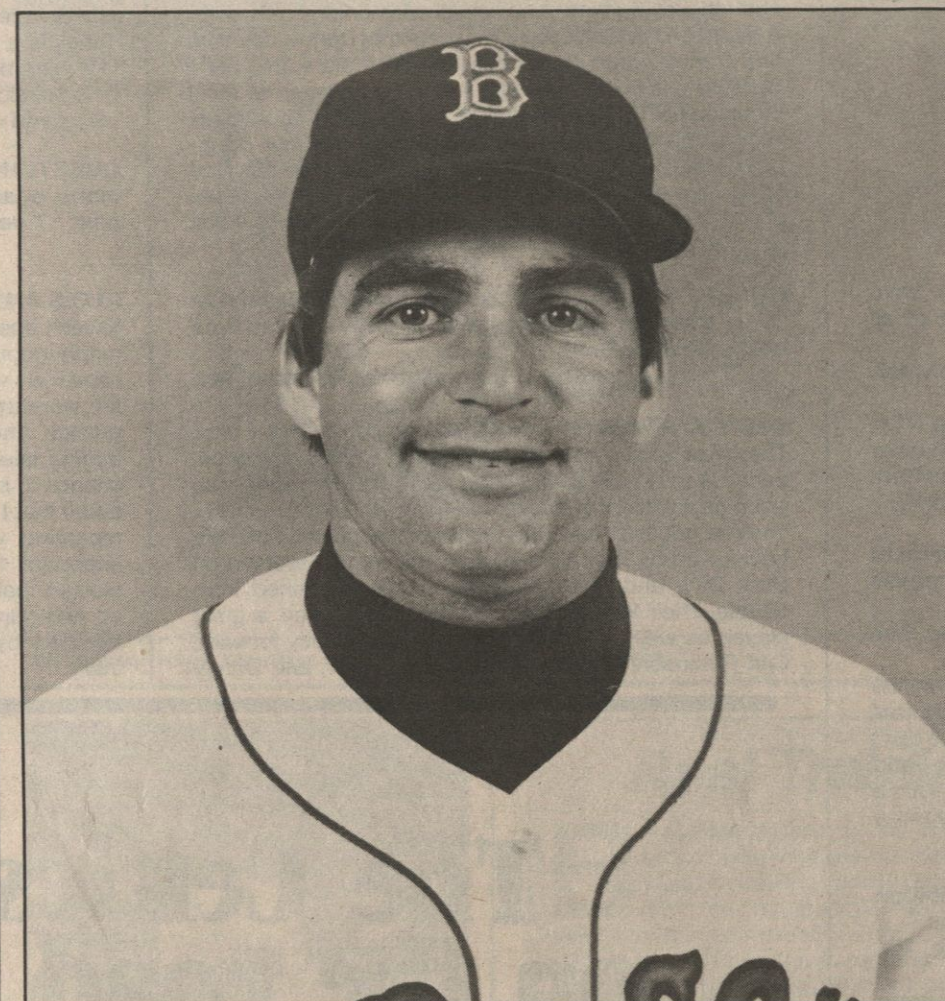
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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Innerview

Bruce Hurst Just Your Average Celtics Fan



Bruce Hurst developed a close friendship with Danny Ainge.

Bruin Joins Celtics



Kevin and Bill make personal appearance at A&W restaurant in Westfarms Mall at Farmington, Conn.

Bruce Hurst had an unusual and effective 1986 season. He began the year strongly, sparking the Red Sox pitching staff before pulling a leg muscle in late spring. Sidelined for most of two months, he watched as the Roger Clemens phenomenon took hold. When Hurst returned to action in July, he resumed his fine season.

In early September, he commented: "In a way, the layoff was a blessing. Now I'm rested and will be able to pitch strongly down the stretch." Indeed; Hurst captured the Sox' first post-season win, a 6-2 decision over the California Angels in Game 2 of the ALCS, and continued onward into the World Series. Hurst is a close friend of Danny Ainge of the Celtics, and it was at a Celtics practice where *Celtics Pride* spoke with the hurler.

Celtics Pride: You're a frequent visitor at practice and at Celtics' games. Is this related to your friendship with Danny Ainge?

Hurst: Danny and I are close friends—we became friendly after I began pitching up here (in Boston). My family and I needed a place to stay and the Ainges were gracious enough to allow us to stay with them. We have been close since.

Celtics Pride: We should talk first, though, about the Red Sox' season and your own.

Hurst: We have had a great season. We started off well, and then we had some difficulties. Our main task was to find out what we could do as a team... How we could play together effectively. Things have worked out.

Celtics Pride: What have been the key ingredients, on and off the field?

Hurst: Well, we didn't have much backing off the field. We were determined not to pay attention to any written or spoken words. Just go out there and play, and play well.

It was a strange year. We are known for our power hitting, but we had periods when we just did not hit the ball well. But we executed the fundamentals extremely well. Made the right decisions out there on the field. Throwing to the right bases. We pitched well all year, and the hitting did come.

Celtics Pride: How about your season?

Hurst: I started off real well, then I lost two months to my leg injury. But I'm back; my main concern was driving off the mound hard, and that came around. I watched films to check out my pitching motion. I believe my fast ball and curve are as effective as they ever have been.

Celtics Pride: What about pitching in the World Series?

Hurst: Well, it's been like a dream, a fantasy which has been actualized. I was like any other kid—throwing the ball against the wall in my home (St. George, Utah) and thinking someday I'd make it there.

I thought about my start through many anxious moments before the first ballgame at Shea Stadium. But after the first pitch, I settled into my rhythm and didn't worry about it.

Celtics Pride: Were you upset about being lifted in the 9th? (for a pinch-hitter, leading 1-0)

Hurst: No. My hitting wasn't there, I managed one foul ball in three ABs. I had thrown 125 pitches and it was an opportunity for us to put the game away. Of course, it always feels good to discuss these matters after you win.

Celtics Pride: Now that you guys have reached the heights, can you see some similarities between your team and the Celtics champions?

Hurst: I have always respected the close-knit feeling among the players on the Celtics. They are able to maintain a collective purpose and still be very personal. It's different on a baseball team—more men on the team, more individual in accomplishing your goal out there in the team context. We've sacrificed together this year. We've had tremendous leadership in the clubhouse from Don Baylor. As Larry Bird does for the Celtics, Jim Rice has done for us. He has the ability to carry a team. Rice has the look in his eye of a champion: he knows what he has to do out there and he gets it done. And Roger Clemens has similar qualities on the pitching staff. He's one tough pitcher.

The Celtics have had a unity of purpose and have been able to execute on the floor. We've been fortunate to do that this year.

Celtics Pride: Can you talk about your friendship with Danny?

Hurst: We are friendly and our families are friendly. Our kids stayed with Michelle and Danny when we went to New York last week for the opening two games of the Series. We play golf together, and we play one-on-one sometimes after the Celtics practice. I try to get to as many games as possible when we're in Boston during the winter and the spring. He watches us play, too.

We compete, though. We exchange victories on the golf course, and we never let up when we're playing. But it's all in good humor.

Celtics Pride: How did your team approach the season?

Hurst: It's a cliché, but we went after each game, one at a time. Especially in September. We had a hard road trip into Baltimore and New York, and we put some distance between ourselves and our rivals. Toronto challenged, and we put them away. The same with New York. We played together and we played with intensity.





Ask Red Auerbach

QUESTION: How many of the current Celtics have graduated from college? Also, what percent of all NBA players have graduated from college?

Charles Apke, Boston, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: I can't speak for the rest of the NBA, because I don't have the information on players on other teams. But only one of our current players does not have his college degree. I see no need to name the player.

QUESTION: Where do the Celtics stand in relation to the salary cap and how does it restrict player moves right now?

Nate Hayward, Greenfield, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: We, like most of the teams in the league, are now well over the salary cap. Naturally, that limits our flexibility regarding player moves, since we can't just add a player without removing another player—and his salary—from our roster. Essentially, for us to acquire a player, we'd have to trade a player who makes at least as much money.

QUESTION: I read where you traded two exhibition games for Fred Roberts. What does that mean?

Mark Hetrick, Holyoke, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: What you read is not at all accurate. We signed Fred Roberts, who was a free agent at the time, to an offer sheet on September 11th. When the Utah Jazz, who owned the rights to Roberts, matched that sheet, we made a deal with them to acquire his services. We sent the Jazz a 1987 third-round draft choice and also agreed to play two pre-season games over the next three years against them. We didn't really give them so much there; they are still paying us to play the games just like any other pre-season game. From their point of view, selling a pre-season game against the Celtics makes more sense than doing so against another NBA team because of our draw.

QUESTION: It was in our daily paper that several Celtics reported to camp weighing 10-20 pounds lighter than last year's playing weight. Why? And do you set the weights that you expect each player to play at?

Pat Rees, Lynn, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: We ask only that our players report to training camp in reasonable condition to play basketball. The four-week pre-season is sufficient time to get them in shape if they're not too far out of shape. We don't tell our players a specific weight to report at. Some teams might have to, especially those with players prone to be overweight, but we have a veteran team who have proven that they maintain themselves well. The fact that some guys reported to camp lighter than last year just shows you how much they want to continue winning.

QUESTION: Is Sam Vincent turning out to be a disappointment for you?

Gerri Bradley, Fall River, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: It's hard to put your finger on what you might actually mean by "disappointment." It's hard for any young player on a championship-caliber team to find enough playing time to sufficiently demonstrate his skills. A guard on the Celtics has to accept that Dennis Johnson and Danny Ainge are established NBA stars, that Jerry Sichting is a fine player who would be a starter on most other teams. That's true whether you're talking about Sam, Rick Carlisle or any other guard. Sam has not disappointed us; we're just having trouble finding him the time to showcase his talents. And he's a good player; he can shoot, handle the ball and go to the hoop. Now he just needs the playing time to refine those skills.

QUESTION: With all the changes on the Philadelphia 76ers this year, can they be competitive by the time of the playoffs?

Doug Caliguire, Boylston, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: No; they'll be competitive right now. They won't have to wait until the playoffs to be good, because they have a very good team. Their front line is as good as any team in basketball—except maybe our own. They've got Jeff Ruland at center, a fine player, and he's backed up by Roy Hinson, acquired from Cleveland on Draft Day, and Mark McCormack, just obtained from Seattle. Their forwards include Charles Barkley, a great player, as well as Hinson, who will play mostly forward, Cliff Robinson, another good young player, and Danny

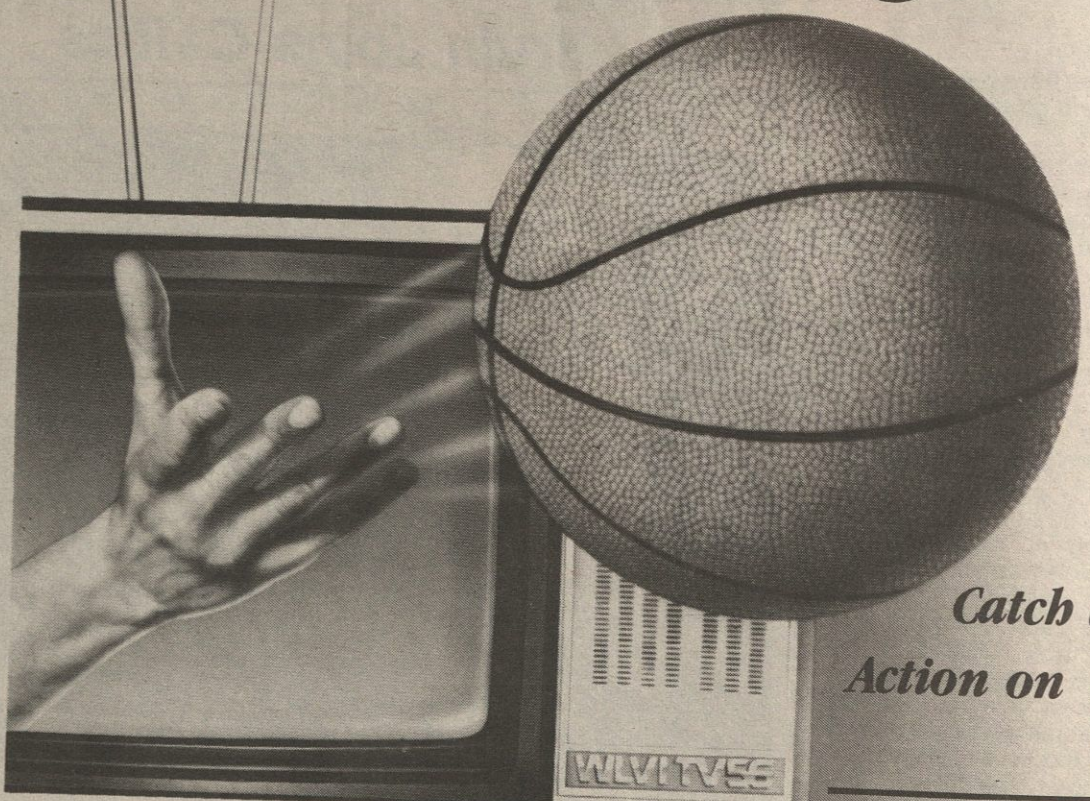
Vranes, a versatile player they got from Seattle. In the backcourt, the Sixers feature Maurice Cheeks, one of the best in the league, along with Julius Erving, Andrew Toney and Sedale Threatt. Dr. J. has done a good job back there. Toney is a question mark because of his foot problems last year, but he's capable of being a great player when he's physically able. All in all, I'd say this Philly team is a very good one. Don't overlook them; we won't.

QUESTION: Why can't NBA teams repeat as champions, or at least why haven't they been able to in the past 17 years?

Tony Reis, Taunton, Mass.

RED'S ANSWER: I think the biggest reason that teams haven't been able to repeat has been the draft. With so much good talent coming out of college each year, especially with one or two super players, the teams with the worst records get a chance to improve dramatically quickly. And the best teams almost never get a shot at adding talent. With this system, every other team has a chance to improve more than the championship team. I'll admit that I do still think that motivation is a factor in not repeating, with teams thinking they're fat cats. Another important factor is, of course, injuries. Don't forget, though, that the last time we tried to repeat we just came up two games short, and that was with Larry and Max troubled by injuries. You can't get much closer than that.

The Celtics are on the road again!



Catch all the
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The Crowning Touch

Crafting of Celtics World Championship Ring

It took hard work, dedication, teamwork and pride for the Celtics to win the 1986 NBA World Championship. And the making of the World Championship Ring that stands for those great qualities was almost as rewarding as the winning of the championship itself. Before the Celtics bounded off the court and into the history books as basketball's 16th World Champions, thoughts began to turn to creating a ring worthy of commemorating that accomplishment.

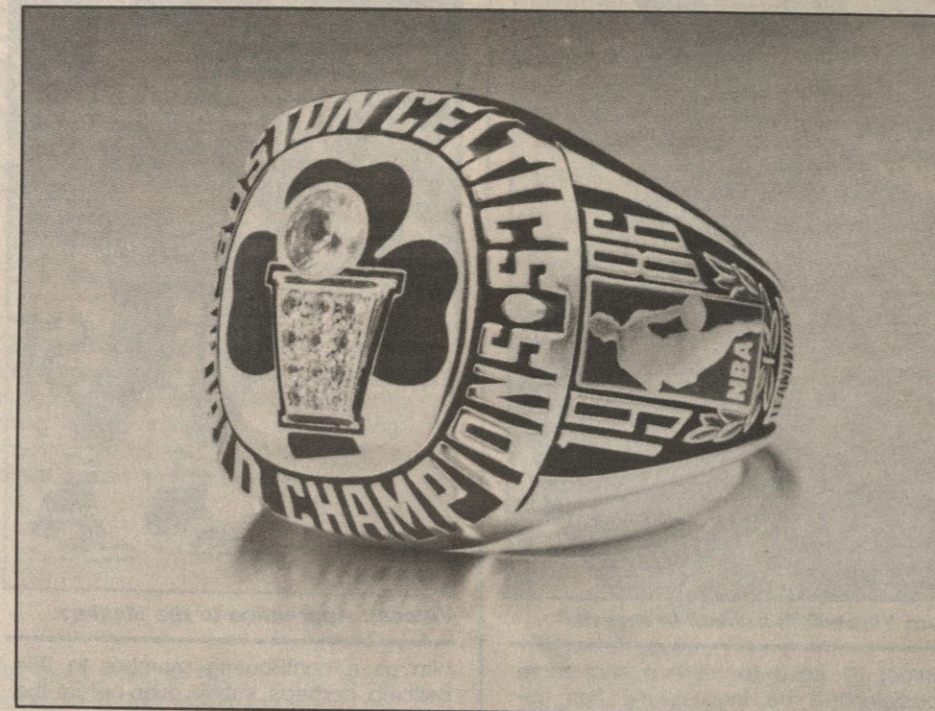
Almost as the stands were cleared in May of 1986, the NBA in New York contacted the L.G. Balfour Company in Attleboro, Ma. Known as designers and manufacturers of fine jewelry products for sports, education and business recognition, as well as major suppliers of championship sports jewelry and awards, Balfour was ready for that call. Norm Shorrock, Senior Designer, Walter Hess, Sales Representative, and John G. Scarpellini, Vice President, Sports/Special Events of Balfour met with Red Auerbach and Jan Volk at Celtics headquarters in Boston to present the full spectrum of Championship Rings designed by Balfour over the years.

"... a ring fit for the sixteen-time World Champion Celtics! And what a ring it is! Meticulously crafted in 14 karat yellow gold, the Celts Championship Ring features a brilliant green shamrock on the top of the ring."

The '84 World Championship Ring, which featured a vibrant green shamrock containing a .60 point diamond was a special favorite. Jan requested a replica of that ring be made, with the NBA Trophy set in diamonds.

The sample took some weeks to create. Once it was made, everyone met to take another look. Slight modifications in basket size required another few weeks to accomplish. Once the second ring sample was ready, John Scarpellini delivered it to Jan's summer home in Hyannis. That trip, too, resulted in slight modifications, so the ring went back to the proverbial drawing board for the finishing touches.

Three was the charm... a ring fit for the sixteen-time World Champion Celtics! And what a ring it is! Meticulously crafted in 14 karat yellow gold, the Celts Championship Ring features a brilliant green shamrock on the top of the ring. The stunning diamond-mounted NBA Trophy is set flush into the shamrock, and a magnificent 40 point diamond is set on the top rim of the shamrock, which features six additional diamonds. Around the shamrock are the words *Boston Celtics World Champs*.



All sixteen rings bear the words "Pride" and "Teamwork."

One side of the ring bears the year date 1986, with the NBA Logo standing proudly above the word *Teamwork*. The other side features the Celtics Leprechaun, holding the figure 16 in his left hand, surrounded by a scroll with the words *World Championship*. Underneath is the word *Pride*. In addition, each ring proudly bears the player's name.

Valued at more than \$4,000 each, the Celtics 1986 NBA World Championship Ring is definitely a collector's item. Balfour has created just 44 of these magnificent rings for presentation to the team and its management on October 31, 1986.

Along with their Championship Ring, each player also received a petite ladies' replica ring. In addition, a limited number of charms were also created. Smaller in size, they are replicas of the top of the player's ring.

One champion who is looking forward eagerly to future additions to his collection is Red Auerbach, proud possessor of all sixteen Celtics World Championship Rings. Each one of those rings bears the words *Pride* and *Teamwork*... as appropriate in the crafting of the ring as in the winning of the NBA World Championship.

Real Training Camp Blues

Bill Walton walked out of practice, October 13th. Finally, the cast from his broken left pinky was removed. Finally, there appeared to be some hope that Walton's training camp would soon begin. It has been a difficult period for the off-injured superstar, winner of the 6th Man Award last season. To Larry Bird, a healthy Walton is imperative if the Celtics are to repeat.

The redhead loves the game, and he admits patience hasn't been easy to attain. "Pre-Season or no, if you play the game for [the] fun [of the game itself], sitting out for any length of time is hard. I want to play."

"But the bone in the finger is taking time to heal. We just have to wait. I have no timetable. I prefer no timetable. That just makes waiting that much tougher."

Walton struggled somewhat with limited playing time early last season. He came to the Celtics fully understanding his role. He came to the team fully accepting his situation: playing off the bench, providing relief for Robert Parish, and mainly, sustaining the Celtics' drive for 48 minutes. That had been lacking when K.C. Jones was forced to go to the bench in 1984-85.

"And if you don't win the championship in Boston," points out Scout Ed Badger, "your season's a disappointment."

If Bill Walton, who has won in his career regular season and playoff Most Valuable Player awards and two professional and collegiate championships, is to maintain his competitive spirit in a relief role, he needs practice time and the direct involvement with the remaining members of the Celtic basketball team.

"It's my means of creative expression," Walton lamented after practice. When that's taken away from you, things are very exasperating."

Walton remained optimistic about the team, and completely identified with its fortunes. This is the player, who, as the premier player on the Celtics' renowned "Green Team," states as a goal each practice, to go out and "bust the White [starting] team."

"I feel positive about one thing," he stated. "Our team is doing very well. I remember where we were last year at this time."

"We were terrible. [In Pre-Season] the Lakers beat us twice. Washington handled us in Worcester."

"This year we continue to be a very good basketball team."

Trainer Ray Melchiorre couldn't make a definite guess on Walton's return to action.

"I can't really say how Bill's handling it psychologically. He's a veteran and he's mature. But he's been through several injuries in his career so it's harder maybe for him. But we're looking at the injury itself: the cast is off now, and he can't do anything [with basketball] for three days. That's the best way to treat it."

Walton hasn't done much running or extra working out. "I'm a basketball player. That's where I exercise. I'm never too far out of shape."



Red has enough rings to outfit a family.



Sam Vincent's Ongoing Education

By Bob Schron

He dribbles to the top of the circle and stops. With unusual drive from a standing position, he goes straight up for his outside jumper. Uncontested in this informal practice, he sends the shot through. In the near empty gym, he gives a slow smile, satisfied.

James Samuel Vincent, Boston Celtics guard, number one draft choice of the team in 1985. Career scoring average at the Michigan State University 16.8, including 23.0 in his senior season, when he earned All-American First Team honors, impressed Scout Ed Badger repeatedly, and soared to the top of the Celtics' guard listing.

Through the pre-season workouts this month, Vincent, in his second season, has been striving to recapture the offensive production which dominated the Big Ten in his final year in East Lansing. His rookie season was a struggle; Sam is the first to admit it.

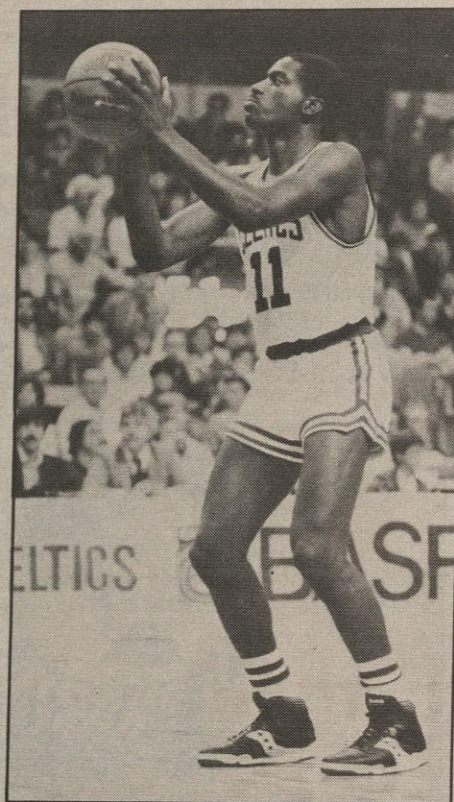
"The biggest adjustment I had going from college to pro ball," he told Bob Ryan of The Boston Globe, "was simply in understanding the game. I had to learn to learn what's going on during the (fast) break, and when to go to post-ups, and to which guy. There's much more involved than in the college game. It's a thought game (in the pros)."

Time passes; Vincent is in his second season and he is playing better. He appears more certain, more defined in his



Sam Vincent: "I believe in myself."

jumper ("I need to hit that shot more consistently," he insists). He has improved his command of the Green Team (the Celtics' bench team) in all-important practices. He belongs; his teammates see



Vincent: Apprentice to the Masters.

him as a contributing member to this ballclub, perhaps, subtly, even before the young player sees it in himself.

The Boston Celtics present a diversity of worlds to the incoming college player. There is the tradition of success. There is the tradition of visibility. There is the team-play ethic; players in Boston have and develop a contributing attitude, placing personal statistics below the priority of winning as a team. Individual recognition is of a different nature here; Larry Bird is in another universe, but he is even better received because the Celtics have won three championships in his six years here. Dennis Johnson was understood to be a great NBA player before coming to Boston, but arguably, few realized how outstanding: defensive stopper, point producer, rebounder, an almost automatic two points in his own guard post-up game. Kevin McHale: a great player on arrival. Yet, in crucial turnaround seasons 1983-84 and 1984-85, McHale assumed the confidence and the stature as "the premier power forward in the game" according to Bob Cousy.

It shows how individual confidence develops from being on a winner, which in turn, relates to how winners in basketball are achieved. They play together. They pass. They draw on each other's strengths.

"I am adapting," says Vincent. "I learned last season that what's important is team productivity, and I am working hard to be productive within the team concept. It's a balance: play well individually, but most important, contribute to the team scheme."

"I believe Sam will be doing some great things for the Celtics," stated Johnson last year. "One of the hardest things he has to do is both to stay patient, and meanwhile, continue to improve."

It's intriguing to recall a situation pertaining to a previous Celtic draft, the 1980 selection which brought McHale and All-Star Center Robert Parish into the fold. An apparent obvious choice and potential superstar was Darrell Griffith from Louis-

ville, who had taken the Cardinals to the NCAA championship that season. The Celtics had the first choice in that draft, and they needed guard help. Eventually they landed the blockbuster duo of Parish and McHale via trade; and Griffith went to Utah, where he has put numbers on the board. But he has been a scoring luminary (21.0) in a vacuum; Utah has made the playoffs and Darrell has been a key figure. But he has feuded with the boisterous Frank Layden. He has held out through training camp, suffered injury, and has been a mild disappointment. This claim, and the player has a career 21.0 ppg scoring average.

Vincent and Griffith are different players, of different skills. Yet Sam outscored Darrell in the men's respective senior seasons—Griffith averaged 22.9. Both players have dynamic skills: Griffith's have evolved in a more singular-oriented scheme. Vincent struggled through a first season, working and refining his obvious talents within a system which has won sixteen times in the past twenty-eight years. There are intricacies here: not only from the Parish-Bird-Ainge team, but from K.C. Jones's coaching, learned when K.C. played under Red Auerbach. The system is far, far from being broke, as General Manager Jan Volk has emphasized on more than one occasion.

And yet, tradition goes so far—fully understood by Auerbach, Jimmy Rodgers, Jones and Volk. They traded Gerald Henderson off of the 1983-84 championship team for Seattle's 1st-round choice in the 1986 draft. That choice, Len Bias, died suddenly two days later, so the Celtics, in terms of player moves, had made no "improvements," as Jones comments. In the ideal situation, Vincent would be groomed slowly. With no draft choice on hand, the opportunity is there for Vincent to contribute, i.e., infusing his idiosyncratic talents within his role, however extended or limited that might be at this time.

"I'm going about things in a conservative way," he says. "I believe in myself. A player, in order to succeed, has to feel that way. My goal at this point in time is to contribute to the team, and keep the Green unit in the plus column every time we take the floor. Make sure we do not give up any points when we're out there."

It's difficult sometimes. (The symbol of the winner often makes the hard work be forgotten.) So Jones has been persistent with the young player. He summons him to the bench frequently during the Pre-Season games, constantly directing the player on offense. It's something of a crash course in learning the point guard responsibilities—but with a flexible twist. Jerry Sichting has some of Vincent's same skills, and when the two are out on the court together, they must be ready to adapt quickly. In a word, Vincent's second season is as hard as his first, only this year he is playing better.

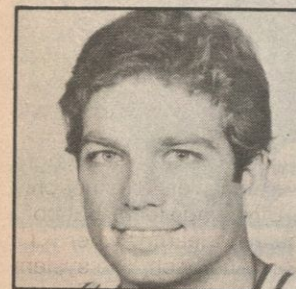
K.C. is pleased. "He's much more confident out there, much more into the game. He's pushing the ball up the court very well, finding the right people, and been more into the defense."

"Last year I let myself get down some," Vincent says. "This year I feel much stronger within myself because I understand everything far better. I'm just going to continue to work hard."

The Value of the Pre-Season The Celtics Perspective

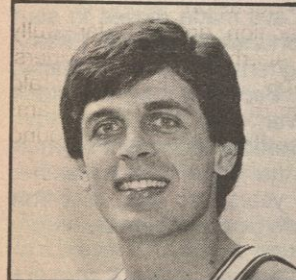
The NBA champions came into the Pre-Season regarded by most observers to the odds-on favorites to win the title again this year. On the surface, the Celtic hierarchy appears to share this perception; accordingly, the team invited no rookies back from the Rookie Camp held at Brandeis University August 2-5. With thirteen players in camp, the Celtics appear to be set heading into the regular season.

Celtics Pride asked several players and coaches what the pre-season has accomplished for each of them on an individual basis.



Jerry Sichting

Jerry Sichting. It's been a positive pre-season. I enjoy coming into training camp and the pre-season thinking I'm with a winner, thinking I'm part of the defending champions, believing there's a hope for the coming season. I had forgotten about that team confidence during the first part of my professional career.



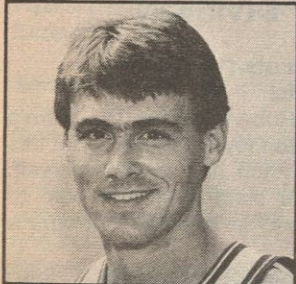
Kevin McHale

Kevin McHale. I've been trying to build up my game conditioning without doing too much too soon. My responsibilities on the team remain the same; during pre-season, you need to become adjusted to new plays and maybe slightly different player combinations. For example, Sam Vincent may get more playing time this year. I'm finding out how fast he throws passes, or what he'll do if he's driving and penetrating. But I still view this time of the year as relaxing. I enjoy practice and playing games for fun. The rock and roll music is never louder in my car than when I'm driving to pre-season games.



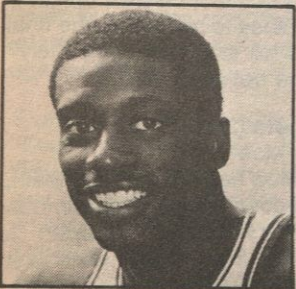
Larry Bird

Larry Bird. With veterans in the camp, there really hasn't been much teaching or time taken to correct mistakes. We have put in a few new plays and we're getting used to those. We're pushing the ball up the court very well in these games, and our shooting percentage has benefited because of it. But I've been very satisfied with our outside shooting as well. I believe we need to develop a cocky attitude this year. Go out and take the games to other teams. We need to work on our defense, but I think that will come.



Rick Carlisle

Rick Carlisle. The value of the pre-season has been in the games themselves. It's there when you have the actual game situations. The whole environment is different for me this season. I feel a little more relaxed, more familiar with the system. I've felt that way each season I've been here.



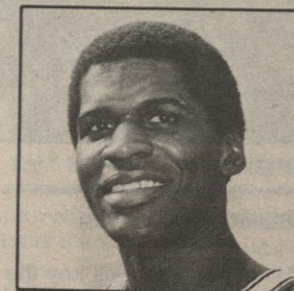
Sam Vincent

Sam Vincent. We're doing well. I think we're ahead of other teams because we've been together as a group longer. We know what we're doing and we're getting things done quicker in practice—K.C. has been able to put new plays in without us missing a beat. Individually, my main goal is to hit the outside shot more consistently.



Bill Walton

Bill Walton. My injured finger has put a damper on this pre-season for me. I'm still extremely happy with my situation professionally, but I'm a player, and I miss being out there. I'm gratified with the way the team is playing though. I don't think we were a very good basketball team last year at this time. Now, I think we are.



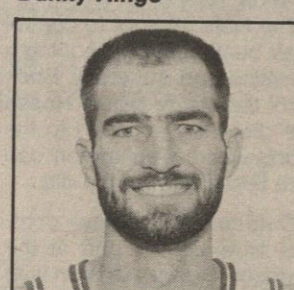
Robert Parish

Robert Parish. I think we're coming around. We didn't have 17-18 players, so I had more work and was able to get into shape more quickly. This prevents injuries; you don't feel as if you have to get into shape suddenly later in the training camp. Plus you don't tire as easily, again, because there isn't as much wear and tear in that "instant" conditioning. Bill Walton's return will help; he keeps my game sharp with daily game type competition.



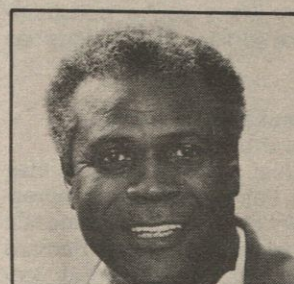
Danny Ainge

Danny Ainge. I think we've had a strong pre-season. I've mostly worked on my timing and my defense. I think we have the tools to have another successful season, i.e., winning the championship. The most important facet of our game, I believe, is our defense. The sharper that becomes, the better team we are in all ways.



Fred Roberts

Fred Roberts. I feel very positive about my pre-season. I feel I'm getting a good look from the Celtics. I didn't think I was getting the same consideration from the Jazz, my former team. It's been a type of first year again; I'm learning ten, eleven players' moves.



K.C. Jones

Coach K.C. Jones. I believe we have a good working number (13 players) here. We felt that if someone had a chance to make the team, we would invite him here. The decision was made by the players we watched at rookie camp and in scouting films (for possible trades). We're just sending our team out there this pre-season, looking at conditioning and different player combinations. Seeing, for example, how Jerry Sichting and Sam Vincent play together. Watching Rick Carlisle, seeing what Fred Roberts can do.



Jimmy Rodgers

Assistant Coach Jim Rodgers. I think the working number has allowed us to focus on the things we need to improve to make us a great team. Execution, fundamentals, team defense. I think this team has a strong sense of what they need to do to repeat as champions.



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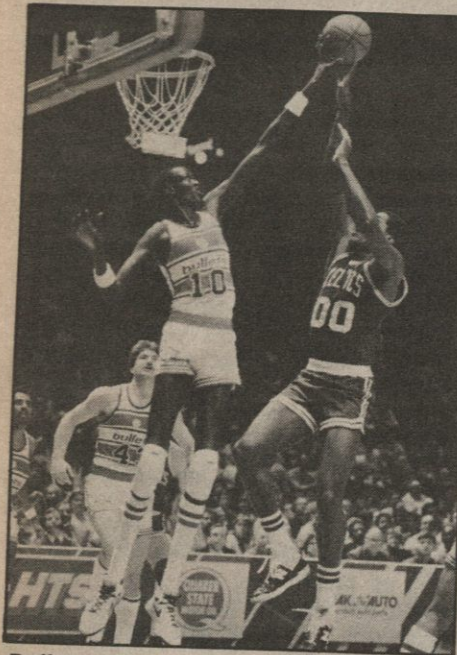
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Pre-Season Preview How the Celtics Match Up



Bullets' Manute Bol

The defending champion Boston Celtics open the 1986-87 campaign on Friday, October 31st against the Washington Bullets. The Celtics entered the opening of training camp with thirteen players—a statement: "We'll just be trying to build upon what we already have," observed Assistant Coach and Director of Playing Personnel, Jim Rodgers.

Following is a brief preview of the upcoming NBA season, with subjects necessarily to change as the teams find out their respective strengths and weaknesses in camp. The Celtics interestingly planned game strategy last season featured what they themselves did well. "Make the other team adjust to us," says Rodgers.

How will the games look, then? Following is a general outlook.

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Boston Celtics (1st: 67-15)

Coach: K.C. Jones

Game Plan: The Celtics feature a front court offense, keyed by Larry Bird. But their whole game is big, with Parish-McHale-Walton. They'll run under control and the defense is sparked by Guards Johnson and Ainge.

Outlook: Last year, they were vulnerable when aggressive front court play out-fought them, or when one-man gangs (Jordan) went wild. Injury free, they'll win, though.

Philadelphia 76ers (2nd: 54-28)

Coach: Matt Goukas

Game Plan: Change. Out are Malone and Catledge; now clearly it is Charles Barkley's team. He'll lead injury-plagued Ruland, inconsistent talents Hinson and Robinson, balky Cheeks, aging Doctor. Andrew Toney's questionable status caps these uncertainties off.

Against the Celtics: Traditional rivalry still makes the Sixers threatening. In the past, Ruland hurt Boston with muscle, and Barkley has shown signs of being dominant. Yet, there are still too many forwards here.



76ers' Charles Barkley

Washington Bullets (3rd: 39-43)

Coach: Kevin Loughery

Game Plan: Moses Malone will key the strength of the Bullets' front court, which Bob Ferry hopes will become increasingly intimidating with Malone, Bol's size, and William's potential. J. Malone is an underrated star at Guard. Red Auerbach respects Jay Vincent's game.

Against the Celtics: Malone has brought championship drive down Highway 95 and a team which plays with this intensity is trouble for the Celts. These types prove troubling; form is replaced by who wants it more.

New Jersey Nets (4th: 39-43)

Coach: Dave Wohl

Game Plan: The Nets attempt to control the pace in their best moments, hoping a healthy D. Dawkins and superstar Buck Williams control the inside game. Hopes in N.J.: Wohl's discipline extends to the Nets' game, and Pearl Washington can give them what Richardson once did.

Against the Celtics: Celtics have dominated, both in New Jersey and at the Garden. Richardson did hurt Boston with penetrating moves, but Nets always seem intimidated by Garden, and it's hard to defeat a team when you're constantly conceding. Late addition of Woolridge has to help.

New York Knicks (5th: 23-59)

Coach: Hubie Brown

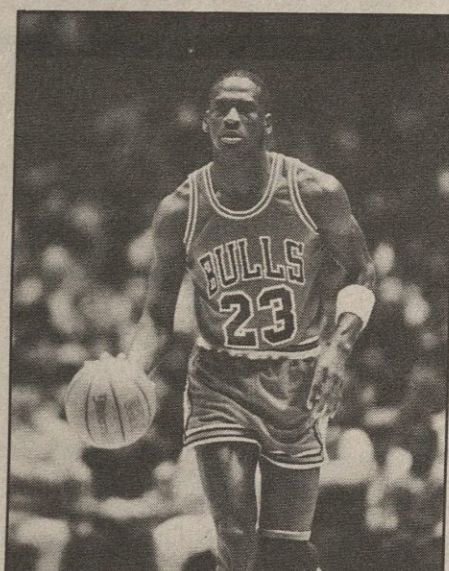
Game Plan: Not Hubie Brown, in their best moments. Patrick Ewing was impressive, to the point of being overworked last year. There's talent and money: Bernard King will play here. Chris Ford is very impressed with Rookie Walker. Interestingly, Red Auerbach respects D. Walker, (was traded on Thursday) and the latter and Hubie fight.

Against the Celtics: Celts dominated this series in the early Bird days with physical intimidation. Ewing counters this now, and a healthy Cartwright and King would help. The '85 Xmas massacre keeps the Celts wary.

CENTRAL DIVISION

Milwaukee Bucks (1st: 57-25)

Coach: Don Nelson



Bulls' Michael Jordan

Game Plan: Bucks traditionally have created irregular matchups by playing five forwards (Pressey at point, Moncrief at Forward). Now they have Jack Sikma, and Nelson will become more conventional as he did with Lanier 80-82 team.

Against the Celtics: Playoff competition has made these teams rivals/enemies. Robert Parish has always ranked Sikma among his toughest foes, Johnson the same with Moncrief. Nelson and Jones are competitive, and who wins series goes to The Finals.

Atlanta Hawks (2nd: 50-32)

Coach: Mike Fratello

Game Plan: Fratello and Wilkens and the young Hawks' team grew up together last season. They hustle, run, turn the show over to Dominique. Koncak, Willis, Levingston, and Webb are young players who will be better.

Against the Celtics: Hawks came into Garden for playoffs at peak efficiency, and the veteran champions won easily. With Bird, and health, the superstar C's are still too much of an obstacle for this team. But not without tension.

Detroit Pistons (3rd: 46-36)

Coach: Chuck Daly

Game Plan: It used to be give the ball to Isiah, he knows what to do. There are some real definitions of role to be determined here with addition of offensive-minded Dantley. Some players NEED the ball; if Isiah's role is diminished to any degree, this team will be less than what it was.

Against the Celtics: Two years ago in the playoffs, the C's, in a "down" year, neutralized Thomas and won 4-2. They have never had a problem with Laimbeer, and Salley is still a rookie.

Chicago Bulls (4th: 38-52)

Coach: Doug Collins

Game Plan: Collins was a great player off the ball, so look for a passing offense, centered around Jordan's abilities as the most dominant outside position player in the game.

Against the Celtics: Michael Jordan. The fact that they see 7-foot Rookie Sellars as a small forward says plenty about Jordan.



Hawks' Spud Webb

Cleveland (5th: 29-53)

Coach: Lenny Wilkens

Game Plan: Cavs made moves to start over; they're fortunate they have Embry, Wilkens, Daugherty, Harper, Williams, and Hubbard because they shouldn't have started over.

Against the Celtics: World B. Free hurt Boston, and the Cavs hell-for-leather approach two years ago did, also. Too inexperienced to pose any threat.

Indiana Pacers (5th: 26-56)

Coach: Jack Ramsay

Game Plan: What else? Motion offense, but injured knee of Kellogg poses a question mark. In the ideal world, Dr. Jack would trade Kellogg, move Chuck Person into his role, and have a top flight center to let Williams fly.

Against the Celtics: Always have played Hoosier Bird tough at Market Square. They've always been young and coming. Maybe this year they've arrived someplace.

MIDWEST DIVISION

Houston Rockets (1st: 51-31)

Coach: Bill Fitch

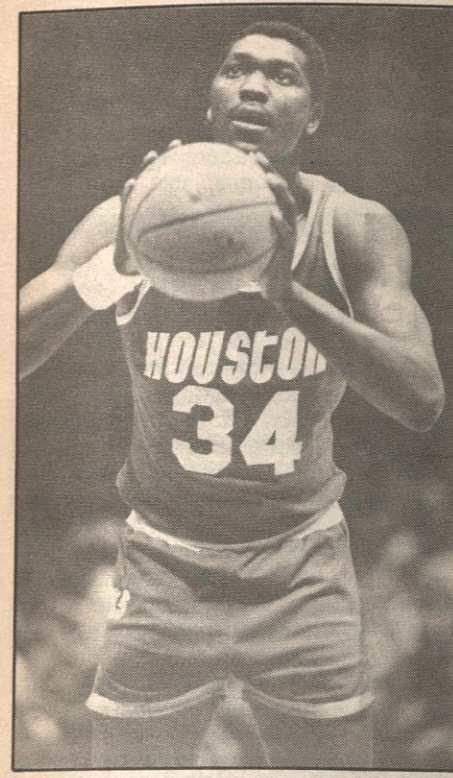
Game Plan: Robert Reid is the team's point forward as they enter camp, but this may change. Fitch has to ask himself: How does this team allow the best of Akeem Olajuwon to surface? Perhaps a major change.

Against the Celtics: Memories. Sampson almost broke his back in March when he was playing some of his best ball as a pro. He came close to his best in the final series, but did fall stop him completely? Olajuwon is the better player.

Denver Nuggets (2nd: 47-35)

Coach: Doug Moe

Game Plan: Moe has fun with his team, and they've become increasingly serious contenders every season. Cooper, a legitimate NBA center, was injured last year, and that destroyed their drive. English, former Celtic for a night, is a great player.



Rockets' Akeem Olajuwon

Against the Celtics: Not physical enough and their running attack seems to get them only so far. Additions of Darrell Walker and rookies Alarie and Martin help, however.

Dallas Mavericks (3rd: 44-38)

Coach: Dick Motta

Game Plan: Mark Aguirre is not Motta's type, really, and he controls the offense. It's an irreconcilable difference. Tarpley's a fine player, so is Perkins, and Donaldson provides bulk.

Against the Celtics: Rolando Blackman is a player K.C. Jones would love to have. He runs the floor, plays defense, and is a great offensive player. But the Celtics have dominated Dallas inside. They are growing up, as evidenced by strong playoff against LA.

Utah Jazz (4th: 42-40)

Coach: Frank Layman

Game Plan: New, with the ouster of Adrian Dantley, and guard forward types around like Tripucka, Griffith, Curry. They will continue to rely on Eaton's defense to keep them in games.

Against the Celtics: Best hope for interest is Frank's public relations. McHale's best moments have been against Benson.

Sacramento Kings (5th: 37-45)

Coach: Phil Johnson

Game Plan: They've brought Derek Smith in, and gave up their former guide in Larry Drew. LaSalle Thompson and Eddie Johnson are fine players, Theus was at one time.

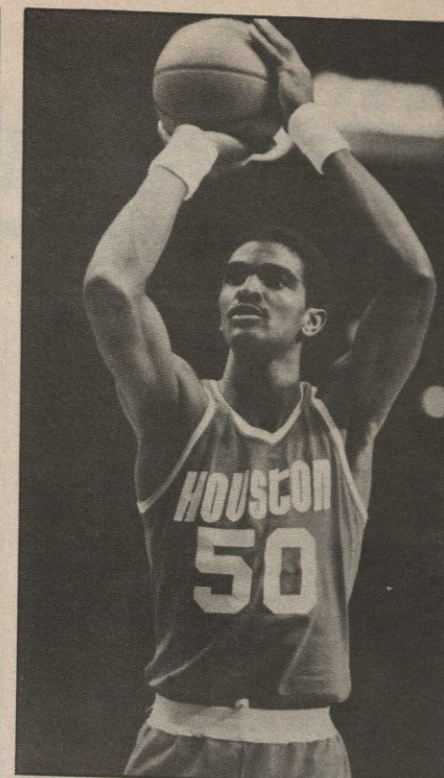
Against the Celtics: They have a shot if the games are played at Kemper Arena. Difficult to gauge against this team, but Smith is a threat, and Thompson can be intimidating. But C's play with confidence against this team.

San Antonio Spurs (6th: 35-47)

Coach: Bobby Weiss

Game Plan: Many thought J. Dawkins was the best player in the draft; his guard abilities led Duke into the NCAA finals. This team will be very good this year.

Against the Celtics: Mitchell, Thompson, Gilmore, Robertson are all solid pros. They'll bother the champions with team-



Rockets' Ralph Sampson

work and offensive firepower. Moore's health is an undesirable question mark.

PACIFIC DIVISION

Los Angeles Lakers (1st: 62-20)

Coach: Pat Riley

Game Plan: Turn the ball over to Magic, still. Abdul-Jabbar wearied badly in the playoffs, and Lucas was cut loose. Green, Worthy, Scott, and Thompson are all fine athletes, and Rambis is still credible. 62-20 last year.

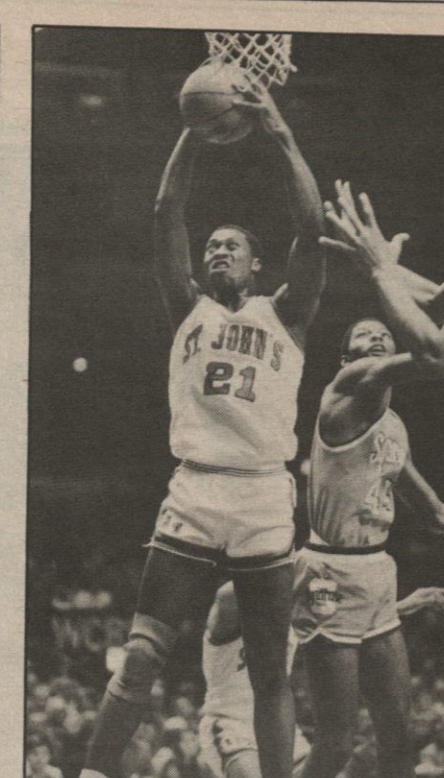
Against the Celtics: Still the most attractive matchup in the league. The Lakers are

1986 NBA COLLEGE DRAFT

Held on June 18, 1986
First-Round Choices of NBA Teams

Team	Name	School	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Overall Pick
Atlanta	*Billy Thompson	Louisville	F	6-7	195	19
Boston	Len Bias	Maryland	F	6-8	210	2
Chicago	Brad Sellers	Ohio State	F	7-0	212	9
Cleveland	Brad Daugherty	North Carolina	F	7-0	245	1
	Ron Harper	Miami of Ohio	G	6-6	205	8
Dallas	Roy Tarpley	Michigan	F	6-10	230	7
Denver	Maurice Martin	St. Joseph's	G	6-6	200	16
	Mark Alarie	Duke	F	6-8	225	18
Detroit	John Salley	Georgia Tech	F	7-0	231	11
Golden St.	Chris Washburn	N. Carolina St.	C	6-11	254	3
Houston	Buck Johnson	Alabama	F	6-7	200	20
Indiana	Chuck Person	Auburn	F	6-8	215	4
LA Clippers	No selection					
LA Lakers	*Ken Barlow	Notre Dame	F	6-10	225	23
Milwaukee	Scott Skiles	Michigan State	G	6-11½	190	22
New Jersey	Dwayne Washington	Syracuse	G	6-2	200	13
New York	Kenny Walker	Kentucky	F	6-8	210	5
Philadelphia	No selection					
Phoenix	William Bedford	Memphis State	C	7-0	225	6
Portland	Walter Berry	St. John's	F	6-8	215	14
	Arvidas Sabonis	USSR	C	7-1	245	24
Sacramento	Harold Pressley	Villanova	F	6-7	210	17
San Antonio	Johnny Dawkins	Duke	G	6-2	165	10
Seattle	No selection					
Utah	Dell Curry	Virginia Tech	G	6-5	195	15
Washington	John Williams	Louisiana State	F	6-9	237	12
	Anthony Jones	Nevada-Las Vegas	G	6-6	195	21

*Thompson was traded by Atlanta, along with 1986 second-round selection Ron Kellogg to the LA Lakers for veteran guard Mike McGee and first-round selection Ken Barlow.



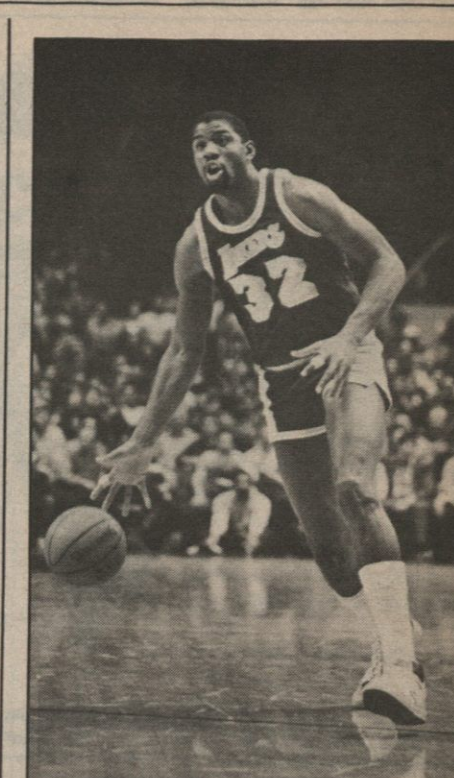
Trail Blazers' Walter Berry

Portland Trail Blazers (2nd: 40-42)

Coach: Mike Shuler

Game Plan: Hard to tell. Their trades and draft leave them a grab bag of negative uncertainties. Some ranked Berry in the top five, though.

Against the Celtics: Celtics have usually played well against the Blazers in Portland, although the Blazers did defeat Boston in the Garden last year. Bowie's health? Drexler's coming into his own? C's clean up versus rebuilding teams.



Lakers' Magic Johnson

L.A. Clippers (3rd: 32-50)

Coach: Don Chaney

Game Plan: Spread the court out, let Marques play some guard, depend on Maxwell's class. Drew will help here, as will the draft choices Smith brought. Next year and into the future.

Against the Celtics: Boston defeated this team easily last year. There's no reason to think they won't do the same again. First match proved intriguing: C's went directly at old friend Maxwell, one of the best big game players in the game.

Phoenix Suns (3rd: 32-50)

Coach: John MacLeod

Game Plan: Attempted to run more last year; they finally signed Walter Davis and they have high hopes for brash rookie Bedford.

Against the Celtics: Suns found a method to defeat the 4th best team in the history of the league (i.e., record). They got Bird ejected in the raucous arena in the Valley of the Sun.

Seattle SuperSonics (5th: 31-51)

Coach: Bernie Bickerstaff

Game Plan: Will need to be revamped with the deletion of power player Sikma, addition of swarming type, Lister. Chambers is a fine player, if too temperamental, Henderson pretty good, and Lucas will add professionalism, and hopefully, some of the muscle that Sikma had.

Against the Celtics: Celtics, defeated by Henderson and the Sonics the previous season, sustain their concentration well against this team. Sonics must control the pace and hit their shots.

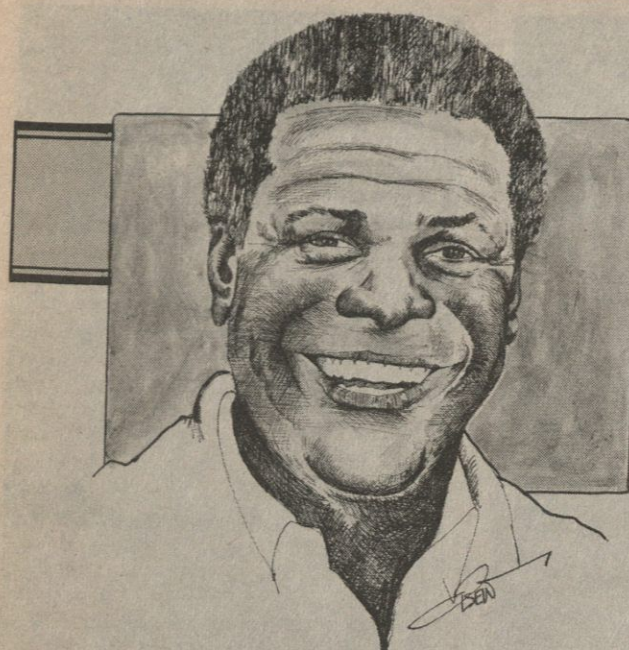
Golden State Warriors (6th: 30-52)

Coach: George Karl

Game Plan: Also revamped, but with feisty Karl and entire new brain trust, there's hope here. Wonders what a 3rd choice (Washburn) in the whole draft can do for your optimism. Questions: will the players play for highly visible Karl?

Against the Celtics: Karl's Cavs played the Celtics tough. The Warriors are a curious team: will Joe Barry play any better or is he destined to be on the margin? Will Washburn be disciplined at all? Will they allow Sleepy Floyd some respect?





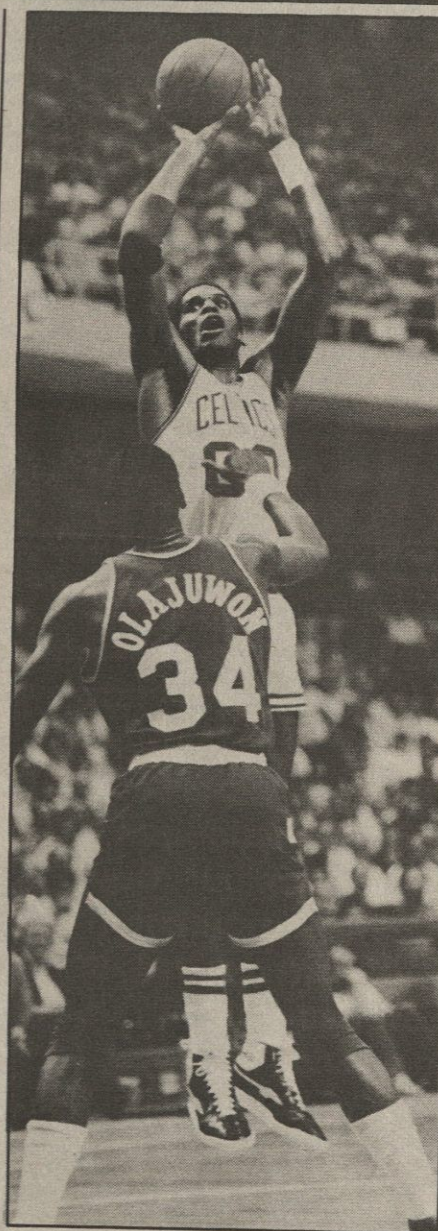
K.C.s Corner

Will and Sacrifice

Although I am speaking from an early Pre-Season perspective, I nevertheless am very pleased with the development of our team at this early stage. The players came back from the summer in excellent shape, and they've worked hard in camp.

Training camp is drudgery, grim, and difficult. I am the first person to admit that. But our players returned to camp with enthusiasm and that was pleasing to the entire coaching staff. I believe a team can succeed if they work hard, and if they have the right approach toward putting out that extra effort. In my opinion, it has to do with setting the right (championship) goals as a team. It has to do with will. And it has to do with making personal sacrifices for the team. Bill Walton's injury brings this into focus and also delineates the importance of Robert Parish to our team. Robert has been special in this camp, and in the Pre-Season; he's been working hard, running the floor, boxing out, blocking shots, taking on Jeff Ruland of Philadelphia, Moses Malone of Washington, Akeem Olajuwon of Houston. His productivity remains high, despite these confrontations and with the added minutes he has had to play with Bill's inactivity. Robert contributes, plays an immense game, and is humble within the team context. These difficult, challenging, extended minutes were the norm before Bill Walton came to this team in 1985. In basketball, center is where the action originates; on this team, it has consistently come from there, from Ed Macauley, to Bill Russell, to Dave Cowens, and now through Parish and Walton. Robert may not receive much ink, but the team relies on him.

We chose to bring thirteen players into camp—and there have been consequences. We need polish on our game, and this is a good working number. But we have had injuries (Scott Wedman's heel; Jerry Sichting's back; David Thirdkill's ankle; Walton's finger) and this has required us to constantly adjust. The players are often day-to-day; in the Pre-Season, you do not want to risk further aggravation of ailments. But the players do need to build up their conditioning, too. Motivation in the Pre-Season games, therefore, is something we need to deal with as well. We do not like to lose at any time. With that tenet—these are still pre-season matches, the results don't count in the standings, and our team knows that. You have to accept that there will be some



Robert doesn't get the ink.

lapses—it's the nature of it. The flip side to it is that these are the most highly competitive players, I believe, in the league. One only has to watch Bill Walton; he is very unhappy sitting out (because of the injury)—he intensely wants to be out there for games in practice, the Green Team against the starters.

Our practices are important this time of year because they renew the personal and collective mission. Playing time is

earned on the practice floor. And as a team, you play as you practice. The Green Team has played very well against the starting group; this has lifted the level of play throughout all the practices in the pre-season, and I think it has carried over into the formal Pre-Season games. We started off slowly against Philadelphia, but were able to get it going in the second half. We then played the Washington Bullets twice in the span of four days. We showed excellent ball movement down in Baltimore, especially in the half court offense. I thought we played considerably rougher on the offensive end when we defeated them in Providence. But we win—you take the games you grind out as well as the solid team efforts.

With limited numbers, Greg Kite has played more, and I really appreciate what he's given us. He's an incessant worker. He's been rebounding very well, passing effectively, making the right decisions on the floor. There are players at all levels in this league; improvement must take place first in the mind at whatever level of talent. For example, the fair player must improve and become good. The good must become great, etc. It's important—it ensures longevity in the league, it takes self-

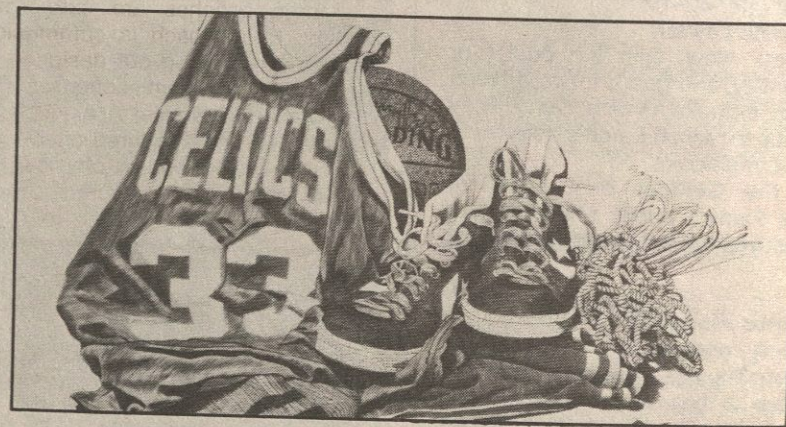
discipline. A player must recognize his strengths and weaknesses and be able to find a place to make a contribution with his skills. Does anyone on this team work harder than Greg Kite? Well, Larry Bird probably does, but then we're talking about a special, special case. Nobody works harder than Larry. Then, Greg.

The final phase of the Pre-Season will be cutting down the roster. Incredibly difficult, always. How do you tell a player 'you're not good enough.' How many years has that player put into the game at a career-type level, from high school, through college, maybe all-conference, All-American? My decision to cut a player comes from what I see out there on the floor. It's easy if a player has an ugly attitude, then you can't wait to cut him. But, generally it's what I see him doing out there or not doing. Can he grasp the offense and defense? Does he forget? Players cannot feel pressure in this situation; they must see it as an opportunity to do what they do very well at the highest level of the game. They should feel happy at the chance to do it with the best!

Just because a player makes a mistake—this does not mean he's playing himself off of the team. A confident player will make mistakes, and then come back and be even more aggressive. If a player is fearful, or shows too much caution, then he'll struggle. Then you won't see the game he's played which has made him a successful player.

We have thirteen players in camp. We have been impressed with each one. David Thirdkill has been very active—passing, shooting, his total game. It has been written that he is the most likely cut here because of contract considerations. At this point in time, I have not written that.

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Chris Ford The Education of a Coach

A significant factor in any team's basketball success is chemistry. The word is by now overused—but the meaning is useful and will apply to team sports forever. It's why in basketball, individual statistics—while glamorous, or useful in some contract discussions—never tell the whole story. Teams win because they are able to set picks constantly for each other. Teams win because they are constantly playing team defense, all over the floor, on each 24-second possession.

A searching look at the present edition of the Boston Celtics reveals such teamwork. One would be overlooking the entire picture if they didn't see the interlocking work of the Celtic coaching staff—Head Coach K.C. Jones, Assistant Coach and Director of Player Personnel Jim Rodgers, and Assistant Coach Chris Ford. Jones was appointed mentor of the team in time for the 1983-84 season. He retained Rodgers, who has been an assistant since 1980-81. Ford was appointed late in the summer of 1983.

Chris Ford's hiring seemed paradoxically to be the most logical and illogical move. Ford's strengths as a player—master of the set-offense, textbook position defensive player, a sophisticated knowledge of where the play was headed next—lent themselves toward immediate success as a coach. Ford played with the Pistons and the Celtics for ten seasons; he was an essential player for the Pistons as a rookie and in his second season was part of the best modern Pistons' team in history (they went to the semi-finals of the Western Conference playoffs. The 1984-85 Pistons' team went as far against the Bird-Celtics. But they didn't have the team skills Ford's Pistons' team had).

In 1980-81, Ford was the off-guard as the Celtics began the franchise's 3rd championship era. As a player, Ford won, through knowledge, guile, and skill.

Ford played through the autumn of 1982, when he was cut before the '82-83 season by the Celtics. He was prepared—"I told my family (wife Kathy and three children, to whom he is totally devoted) to expect it," said Ford in a 1984 interview. He played superbly that pre-season; he was in superior condition, shot the ball sharply, played the best he had played since 1981. But the Celtics were intent on moving Danny Ainge along. "We were competing," said Ainge. "But even in that training camp, nobody helped me the way Chris Ford did. I'll never forget that."

An insight, then, to why Chris Ford was able to move in as coach of players he had gone to the athletic wars with. In a one-word description, Chris Ford is a professional.

"I wasn't fearful because I had played with these guys," says Ford, a sharply dressed man on the bench. "I knew what some of the guys could do and couldn't do. My main thoughts were about what I could do to help us as a team."

"You see, it all goes back to the way the Celtic organization and K.C. approach their business. K.C. makes everybody on the team feel important. He's willing to listen, and he gives a lot of freedom. If he feels what you suggest is to the benefit of



Chris was ready and able to switch to coaching.

the team, he'll incorporate it into the game plan.

"Red (Auerbach) is the same way." Asked about his background, Ford continues, "I read Red's books, listened to his philosophy as a player here. He respects his players, tries to build a feeling of family, doesn't make many roster changes."

"That approach applies to the entire organization; everyone, from the staff through the ballboys, are made to feel important."

Observe the Celtic bench during games; the three coaches are extraordinarily vigilant. Each coach is communicating with players, calling out designed plays from opposing team's offenses (Jones calls the Celtic offense). At a questionable referee decision, the three often will rise off the bench as one, in physical reality, demonstrating the corporate theory of "groupthink."

"My main thoughts were about what I could do to help us as a team."

After Ford was hired in 1983, Jim Rodgers quickly and without missing a beat, dealt with Ford as a peer. "I had no doubts about Chris's ability," says Rodgers. "None whatsoever. He was perceptive as a player, smart. He had a great understanding of the game as a player."

"The way he made the transition to coaching says something about him as a person, too. Not everybody could just step right in (and coach players he played with). But Chris has such an excellent feel for the game—a student of the game—that he's been able to do it smoothly."

Chris Ford, like many in the business of professional athletics, has a game personality and a private individuality. Ford is an extrovert on the court—always was; as

a player, he shouted instructions to teammates, imploring them on to better use of their skills, without alienating them. As a coach, he's the same way—totally aware on the bench, motioning from there continually, shouting himself hoarse in the team's first pre-season game. Yet off the court, he doesn't like to be interviewed. He'll stand in the locker room after the game, sipping a beer, quietly dissecting the game. But only through one, two, or three major points. He's more often too involved with the competition to analyze or dissect.

"I'm very happy here," says Ford. "K.C. is great—for example, I coached a game in Milwaukee last year, Jimmy coached another; how many coaches encourage that type of input? We understand how to win, often through conservative means, but we're not afraid to be creative, either."

"We break up the scouting, try to see each team live, and then use the video tapes of recent games and maybe an older game of that same opponent against us. In that way, we have three different ways of attacking them. But, it's the old maxim: the players deserve the credit. They are the ones who have to get it done on the floor."

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Eddie Gnillooly

Strength thru Experience

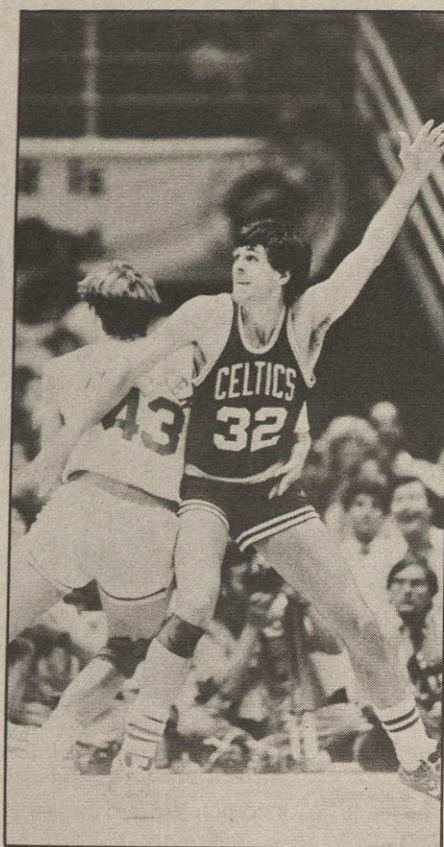
The birth certificates attest the Celtics are growing old but they are not quite ready to retire from the annual chase for the NBA Championship. As a matter of fact, look for the Celtics to be even stronger this season than they were a year ago when they captured their 16th title.

It's possible they won't match the 67 win total of last season because many teams have improved themselves during the off-season but the Celtics have several players, particularly Kevin McHale and

Danny Ainge who have yet to reach their full potential.

And the bench could be even more effective this year than last, if that's possible. Bill Walton and Jerry Sichting have a year under the Celtics system and will be more comfortable and familiar with their roles.

Scott Wedman will continue to be a factor because of his jumper and K.C. Jones won't hesitate using the likes of Greg Kite, Rick Carlisle, Sam Vincent and newcomer Fred Roberts when he has the



Opponents are still frustrated by McHale.

opportunity. This foursome has the experience to fill-in in most situations.

But the key improvements in the team this year are expected to come from McHale and Ainge. McHale, in his first season as a starter last year hiked his scoring average to 21 points a game and earned a spot on the first All-Defense team. But there's more to come from the 6 foot-10 McHale. He could establish himself as the most dominant power forward in the league.

After excelling five years as the Celtics "Sixth Man" and gaining league distinction as the best in that role in 1984 and 1985 while playing in both the center and forward slots, McHale took over the starting forward slot last season and was awesome with Jones capitalizing on his size in most matchups.

With the acquisition of Walton, McHale had very few one-on-one encounters with the tall and bulky centers in the NBA. He's now facing opponents his own size or smaller and his repertoire of shots and moves are even more menacing.

Probably the biggest difference in McHale's offense last year was his passing game. He averaged close to three assists and that number should climb again this year as the double teaming increases. The opposition's need to contain McHale will create more open shots for his teammates.

Even though the Celtics bill their big front court as a three man rotation—McHale, Walton and Parish—McHale is predominately the power forward when working with either Parish or Walton. Due to the matchups and his variety of shots, he's the key man in the low post.

Parish and Walton were most effective in clearing out the area for McHale. Often

they froze the opposition's center in the high post, keeping him from doubling up on McHale. Even though he sacrificed his own offense, Parish's scoring average only dipped by a point and a half per game.

McHale figures to be even more potent and effective after a year's experience as a full-time power forward. His scoring average might not increase substantially but his effectiveness in creating problems for the opposition will be greater and that will benefit the team overall.

Ainge, in his sixth year with the Celtics, should blossom into the talent everyone projected when he signed with the Celtics in 1981. Even though his scoring, average, rebounding and steals were down slightly from the previous season, he was a more effective player during the 1985-86 season.

The 6-foot-5 guard, a scrapper and hard-nosed defensive player, averaged 10.7 points a game in the championship season. But most impressively, he hiked that average to 15.6 in the 18 playoff games. It was evident in the post season contests that he finally gained confidence in his jumper.

Since joining the Celtics, Ainge had been reluctant to take the open jumper, opting to dish the ball off to Larry Bird or one of the big inside men. Jones has been pressuring him to take the open shot when it's there.

Jones' strategy is not to get 20 points a game from Ainge but to keep the defense honest. With Ainge as a scoring threat from the outside, the opposition guard won't be so quick to double team in the low post. The coach would be pleased with 12 to 15 points a game from Ainge as long as he establishes himself when he has the shot.

Basically in the Celtics offense, there aren't too many shots for the guards. There's only 90 shots or so per game and about two-thirds of those are programmed for the centers and forwards. When the opposition sticks to its game plan to pack the middle, Ainge and Dennis Johnson have the luxury of some extra shots.

With another team, Ainge would average 20 points because he probably would have 20 shots a game but Ainge is more than satisfied with his role that provides him with nine to 10 shots each outing.

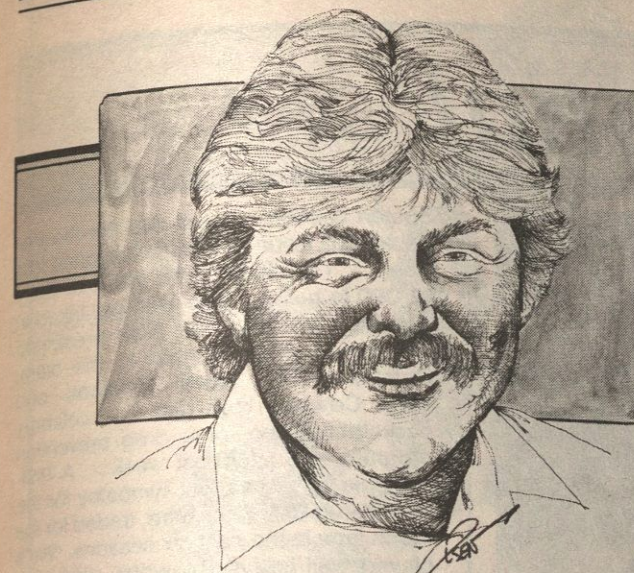
The other area of improvement will come from Walton and Sichting because they'll have a better understanding of the intricacies of the offense and defense in their second season with the team. With all players, it usually takes a full year or two to settle into a new system.

While Walton and Sichting caught on extremely well, their timing and rhythm will be much improved this time around. Walton's movement underneath the basket should increase the team's offensive rebounding which fell off a bit last season.

Sichting, when he fills in for either Johnson or Ainge will have more freedom in running the fast break. Jerry was utilized mostly as the shooting guard in his initial year with the Celtics. His all-around game will pick up immeasurably.

And there's one more area of improvement the fans can look forward to this year. As impossible as it might seem, Larry Bird will be better. He's constantly improving his game and this season should be no exception.

He's the best to ever play the game and could transform any team in the NBA into a winner. With each year better than the last, it's difficult to figure if Larry's reached his peak.



Glenn Ordway

Twenty Questions

Let's face it... Despite the usual air of excitement that rings throughout the NBA in October, the last few seasons offered us very little in the way of unanswered questions. L.A. was L.A. The Sixers were the Sixers and the Pacers Warriors, Spurs and Clippers were the whipping boys. But this time around many of the franchise moguls have decided to radically alter their look. Therefore we enter the 1986-87 season with at least twenty questions.

1. WILL THE CELTICS REPEAT? Now I must admit this question has been an American tradition for the last 17 years BUT IF they stay healthy??? BUT IF they get the breaks??? It's the BUTs and IFs that have prevented anybody from accomplishing this feat since the days of Bill Russell and Neil Armstrong's moon walk.

2. WILL LARRY BIRD BE THE FIRST TO WIN FOUR CONSECUTIVE MVP'S? Last year he equalled Russell and Wilt Chamberlain's mark of three in a row. This year he can climb to the top step alone.

3. WILL YOU WATCH A 76er GAME WITHOUT A PROGRAM? The more appropriate question may be... Can Matty Goukas find peace and playing time for his fleet of forwards?

4. WILL MOSES LEAD WASHINGTON TO THE PROMISED LAND? The pressure may also be heavily applied on Kevin Loughery to finally produce a winner.

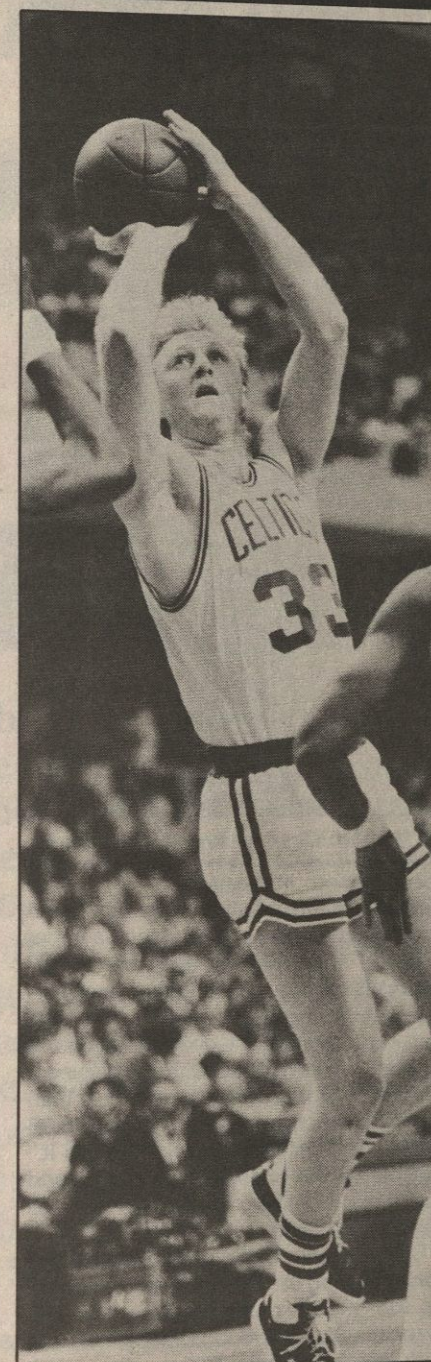
5. WILL THE LAKERS RETURN TO JUNE BASKETBALL? Kareem is a year older and Magic a year hungrier.

6. WILL THE SEATTLE SONICS SMASH THE 1972-73 PHILADELPHIA RECORD? This sad bunch looks to have a legitimate shot at the Sixers disastrous 9-73 season.

7. WILL THE NBA DECIDE ON EXPANSION? Money, Money, Money makes the world go round\$\$\$\$\$.

8. WILL THE NEW YORK KNICKS FINALLY HIRE MORE PLAYERS THAN DOCTORS? Just when Hubie thought it was safe to start thinking about basketball without Cofields, Thorntons and Animals... Bill Cartwright shoves his hand into a fluorescent light bulb.

9. WILL ADRIAN DANTLEY ALLOW



Larry: MVP number 4?

10. WILL THE HOUSTON ROCKETS FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO THE NBA SHOWCASE? The Robert Reid point-guard experiment holds that answer.

11. WILL FRANK LAYDEN BE ABLE TO CONVINCE KELLY TRIPUCKA THAT THE BASKETBALL COURT IS MORE THAN 47 FEET LONG? The robust Utah coach dropped 35 pounds after his team dropped Adrian Dantley but unless Trippucka finds the defensive end of the court, Layden may be driven back to twinkies and ice cream.

12. WILL JACK SIKMA SHORE UP MILWAUKEE'S ONE WEAKNESS? After two mediocre years, Sikma finds himself on a club with talent. That may be enough to return him to All Star status and his new found team one step beyond bridesmaid.

13. WILL WE EVER SEE BERNARD KING AGAIN? Bernard made a surprise return at practice then re-injured his knee—jogging.

14. WILL WE EVER SEE SLY WILLIAMS AGAIN? Even more bizarre than the Bernard King story. We do hear whispers every few months from the New York forward. Has anybody heard from Sly since the day he walked out of camp with George Brett disease? Get Agatha Christie on this one.

15. WILL LAST YEARS SURPRISE TEAM, THE ATLANTA HAWKS, TAKE THE NEXT STEP? So often we see young ballclubs elevate themselves from the depths into legitimate playoff contenders only to level off or regress the following year. This is one team that definitely has the horses to move onward.

16. WILL PRO PLAYERS ACCIDENTLY ATTEMPT COLLEGE THREE POINTERS? Many NBA arena floors will sport a newly painted college three point line approximately four feet inside the pro line. In the heat of the action, there may be a few NBA guys who will light it up from 19 feet expecting to put three up on the scoreboard. I want to be there the first time one of Hubie's Knicks does it.

17. WILL THE NBA REQUIRE THEIR LOGO ON THE GARDEN PARQUET NEXT? You will notice this year that by league edict each team's uniform is required to bear the NBA logo on both the shirt and shorts. The red, white and blue league signature may blend in just fine with the Philadelphia and Washington outfits but it looks awful on the Celtics and Lakers uniforms. Then again Forum Blue doesn't go with any color.

18. WILL COTTON FITZSIMMONS RESURFACE? Maybe the day the first coach gets the pink slip.

19. WILL THIS BE KAREEM'S FINAL GO-AROUND? He's obviously going to keep his decision a secret to avoid a John Havlicek farewell tour. That's just not his style.

20. WILL JOHNNY MOST FINALLY SAY NICE THINGS ABOUT JAKE O'DONNELL? This is the only answer I have for the above twenty — NO!!!

Ed Badger

Striving to Find a Working Rhythm

Scout Ed Badger left practice late last week. Every pre-season, Badger is deeply involved with all phases of the Celtic basketball operation. As head scout of the team, his work of the previous spring is ideally coming to fruition; the draft choices he recommends to the Celtics have been signed, and are ready and playing in the pre-season practices.

This season is unusual: with the death of first round draft choice Lenny Bias, the C's have no rookies in camp. Sam Vincent, the team's preferred choice in the 1985 selections, has played well in the pre-season. He was at the top of the team's guard list last season.

Since he joined the team in 1984, Badger, the former Coach of the Chicago Bulls has preferred to work out of his home area of Cincinnati. His major responsibilities have been in the area of collegiate scouting; in the past, he has stated that he has not wanted to crowd the coaches on the bench who work with the Celtics' team all season. He is extremely happy to be working with the Boston Celtics. "My friends in the coaching profession think I have one of the best jobs in the business," he says, but there are difficulties, too.

"I miss the contact with the team. You can be away from the team for a month, and then return and feel as if you're a part of it in one day. But, as a coach, I miss the contact, and I miss practice. I love going to practice, and for a significant part of my job, I don't go."

"In Cincinnati, when the college season begins, I pretty much am able to do what I want, set my own schedule. And the more you work with the team, and they get to know your working patterns and you their's, things get easier. I'm in my third year here, and it's been better each season."

Badger was a serious contender for the Indiana Pacers' position, but was edged out by Dr. Jack Ramsay, when the latter was released by the Portland Trail Blazers.

"I can understand the Pacers' thinking," reflected Badger. "If the team starts off poorly, and they face a difficult schedule, there's a certain credibility factor involved, and Jack certainly has that."

"In any rebuilding situation, you need some guarantees—in money, but time, especially time."

"Meanwhile, I'm totally happy here. I do prefer the basketball experience directly, every day. But I think I'm able to contribute; if you're away from the team, and you return, sometimes you're able to provide a different slant, a fresh approach to a problem. So I think we've been able to be productive that way."

Regarding any expansion possibilities, Badger leaves himself open. "But the situation would have to be totally right. Otherwise, I'm not leaving here."



Celtics Confidential

By Bob Schron

The Celtics endured the rigors of two-a-day scrimmages for a week before the Pre-Season schedule began at the Boston Garden, October 10th, against the re-vamped Philadelphia 76ers. Visitors to the camp, held at Hellenic College, included University of Florida Head Coach, **Norm Sloan**. Sloan, who has worked with Celtic Scout **Ed Badger** in the past and counts among his greatest coaching victories his 1974 victory over Bill Walton and UCLA while coach at North Carolina State, was very impressed with the Celtics. "They are extraordinary; they are able to go about their business with a relaxed attitude. They are able to have fun, while still working very hard. It's a special blend, and it's something I've never seen in coaching before."

"K.C. Jones is responsible. It's obvious he has a strong knowledge of his team. And it doesn't hurt to have a **Larry Bird**," Sloan continued wryly. (Not only does he work hard in practice, he'll make any coach's job simpler." ... Other visitors included Red Sox playoff stars, **Roger Clemens** and **Bruce Hurst**, who were the Sox' best pitchers in the post-season. Hurst and Danny Ainge are friends, golfing partners, and former foes, when Ainge played third base for the

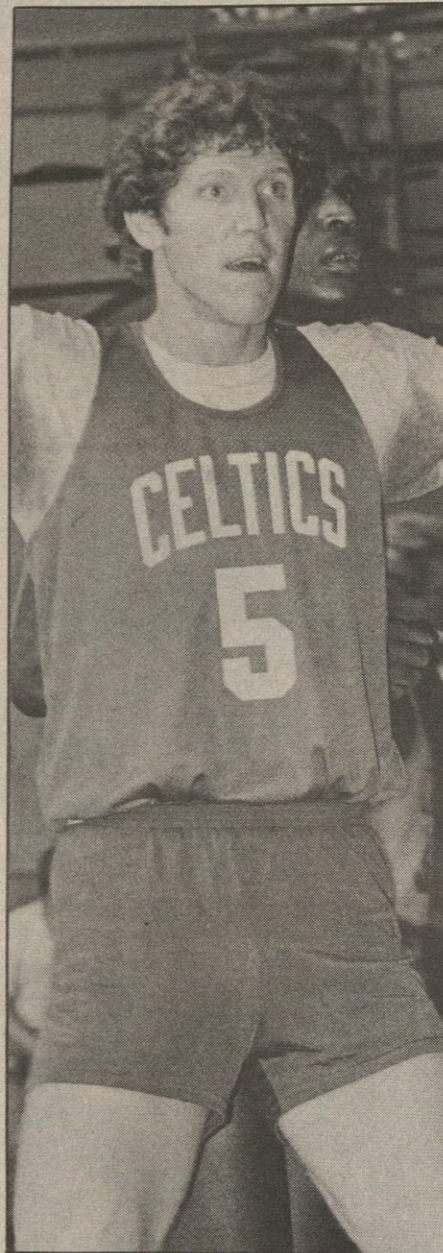
Toronto Blue Jays, and Hurst opposed him for the Sox. The two athletes gave life to the baseball adage that regardless of the luck involved in achieving a base hit, it still looks like a line drive in the box score.

Ainge said about four at bats against Hurst in a 1981 game, "I had two hits. One was a single up the middle. The other a line drive double down the left field line."

Correction, said Hurst. "The ball was looped over third base, and you broke your bat," said the Sox' lefty.

"It was a line drive," answered Ainge. The Celtic did not deny he broke his bat ...

Bob Cousy and **Tom Sanders**, former players on the dynasty team were also visitors at the camp. ... According to Cousy, the current Celtic team does rank among the greatest teams to ever play the game. Asked about how the dynasty team would match up with the current Celts, Cousy responded: "We would have had trouble matching up with their size. **Kevin McHale**, **Robert Parish**, and **Bill Walton** give them a great inside game. **Tommy Heinsohn** was not really an inside player, although he could find ways to score. The current team's problem used to be in the back court. But **Dennis (Johnson)** is superior, and **Danny Ainge** and **DJ** have



Bill Walton: Cast removed from finger.

been helped immeasurably by **Jerry Sichting**. **Bill Russell** on our team could play great defense, but he wasn't a threat to score. And I haven't even mentioned (**Larry**) Bird, arguably the best ever" ... Cousy thinks his Celtic version's greatest feat was "winning 11 championships in 13 years." Then Cousy, without missing a beat, said, "But you have to go farther than that. This franchise has won 16 titles in 28 years. No other team in sports rivals it." Indicated to this observer how closely and admirably identified former players still are with the team.

Subtle scene: Celtic assassin **Andrew Toney** leaving the Garden after the opening Pre-Season game October 10th between the Sixers and the Celtics. "My feet hurt, they hurt," said Toney, who wasn't supposed to play that night.

"I'm on the wrong team," he growled, almost as a between the lines message as he continued moaning about his aching feet. ... One Philadelphia writer thinks Toney is tired of playing altogether. ... "Burned out," said the writer. ... According to observers at New York's camp, **Patrick Ewing** has practiced less this camp, due to aching knees.

Kevin McHale, **Robert Parish**, and **Bill Walton** posed on a miniature model of the

Boston Garden parquet floor for the Pro Basketball issue of Sports Illustrated last week. ... The model costs approximately \$3,000 to build. ... The shot was taken at Hellenic College. ... The NBA presented the annual drug seminar to the team, October 13th. ... **John Havlicek** and **Dave Cowens** took part in a celebrity basketball game for a drug prevention program in Boston last week. ... A Philadelphia writer has real sympathy for the bewildered **Cliff Robinson**, traded for the fourth time in the past six seasons. "He's played well," says the writer. "Yet he's been traded constantly. It's begun to play on his mind."

The filming of the motion picture "Amazing Grace and Chuck" starring the Nuggets' star, **Alex English**, took place in the Garden before the Celtics played the Sixers in the opening Pre-Season game. ... Several takes were performed before the actual game, which had English play with the Celtics for two minutes at the start of the 2nd quarter. ... Celtic "teammates" of English in the film were **Jerry Sichting**, **Sam Vincent**, **Greg Kite**, and **Fred Roberts**. ... **David Thirdkill** was forced to miss the opening two Pre-Season games with a sprained ankle. ... Scout **Ed Badger** and Assistant Coach **Jimmy Rodgers** had begun scouting with the opening of the Pre-Season schedule October 10th. ... Badger took in the Washington Bullets-Atlanta Hawks game and had already seen the Indiana Pacers. ... Rodgers was scouting the Milwaukee Bucks and the Detroit Pistons. ... Rodgers tries to see every early season opponent either personally, or via Badger or his other assistant, **Chris Ford**. ... Celtic players between the lines feel the Bullets have a lot of work to do to get ready for the regular season. ... **K.C. Jones** was promoting his book, *Rebound*, a biography, last week. ... **Kevin McHale** had traded in his golf clubs for a hunting expedition. ... "I only shoot at what I could eat," says the superstar forward, in a statement to an environmentalist. ... Cousy thinks McHale is the best power forward in the game. ... **Bill Walton** had the cast removed from his fractured finger, October 13th. ... **Rick Carlisle** was nursing an injured knee early in the Pre-Season.

K.C. Jones was a spectator at the Red Sox playoff series against the California Angels. "The games were great," commented Jones afterward. "But we were overwhelmed—and honored—by the fans response to us. Every time we got up from our seats, the fans were screaming—'Go Celtics!' We couldn't get up too many times." ... **Bill Walton** took his family to Game 2, and **Danny Ainge** also attended that afternoon game. ... **Larry Bird** posed for several pictures in Providence for Muscular Dystrophy before the Celts' Pre-Season game with the Bullets, October 14th. ... Bird took the opportunity—he was in Providence all day—to get in some extra shooting practice at the Providence Civic Center that afternoon. He was out on the court shooting at 2:30 for about two hours, before the team's 7:30 clash against the Bullets. ... **Joe Melchiorre**, Father of **Ray Melchiorre** visited the team during the team's early games in the Pre-Season.



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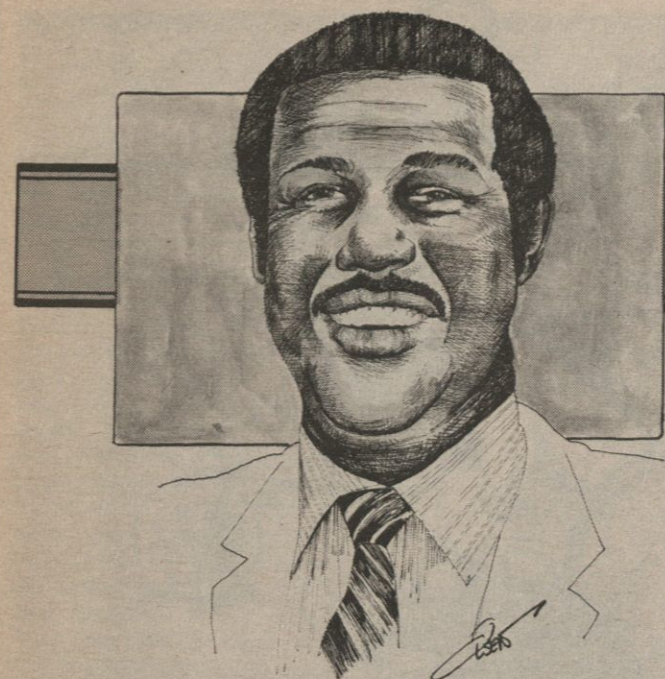
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M.L. Carr

Positioning

This week we look forward to the opening of the season, a special season for this edition of the Boston Celtics. There's a special motivation for this team. Without a doubt, they are the favorite to repeat their championship of the year before. For the men on this team, this will be their only chance. The Celtics are a veteran team and there'll be no second chance for this team as it stands right now. My sense of this year's Celtics is that they are on a mission. A team at this level needs to be. I believe the

veterans accept this responsibility.

The team rounded into excellent condition early this pre-season, partly due to the minimal number of players who entered camp. I have to believe this will help them get off to a strong start this season. It will help down the line; any team suffers down periods during the long NBA season and a cushion is necessary in order to insure success.

Positioning is uppermost in the players' minds as they open the year. You want to get the jump on your rivals, force them to



Nellie tests the Celtics.

chase you all season. In this league, positioning takes place two times during a year; first, now, when the season is just underway. Then, after the All-Star break and through March, when you begin nailing down playoff spots.

The Celtics realize the importance of starting strong, and of being consistent. They open the season against the Bullets, who they defeated twice in the pre-season. The jury still is out for that team and it will depend on how well they are able to incorporate Moses Malone into their team concept. I think Moses can still do it; but if Washington is unable to work the ball inside often, Moses won't be able to continue charging the boards effectively. He's an offensive force who plays the total game best when the offense is built around him.

But I'm not certain the NBA All-Stars could defeat the Celtics on Opening Night, when the Celtics receive their rings (see cover). It's an emotional night for the players. They receive the gold, and the adrenalin will be pumping; the champions will not let a team take away a game which is fairly symbolic of the year just past.

I recall my feelings in 1981 and 1984, the two opening nights after the seasons we won the championship. There was a great sense of pride that night. I reflected back on the ingredients of a championship year: how we came together as a team. How we overcame injuries. How we worked out differences in personalities (and worked with similarities). The hard work... The time away from your family.

All those sacrifices are all worthwhile on opening night. You receive your reward: the ring, the banner being raised, the recognition. Also, the fans are rewarded: They realize the hard work they put into supporting the team. I think it's a great interaction that night; the players pause and appreciate the fans too. Ideally, maybe there should be a ceremony for them. Perhaps the team would raise a banner stating "The Fans" and raise it to the rafters of the Garden.

The following two games in the schedule will test the Celtics' success or failures in their drive to start the season strongly. They fly out to Milwaukee the following evening to play Don Nelson's Bucks. Nelson is among the most respected coaches in the league. He has his teams ready at all times of the season. His teams are never embarrassed. On the road, the Celtics will be facing a game they should be up for. On the heels of that game on the schedule (the game is five days later), the Celtics are home to play the Indiana Pacers. Another challenge: a championship team can never lose the obvious ones, the wins on their schedule. All the early games are a test for great teams. The Celtics can't back off a "weaker" team because a loss to Indiana counts the same in the standings as a loss to Milwaukee.

And it gets back to positioning. A team needs that cushion for later, during the slack parts of the schedule when your incentive is in limbo. For me, it was always the time between the first of the year and through February. The times when the regular season races are pretty much decided. Before the final drive for playoff spots begin. The time when you don't know what hotel you're in, or even what city (it happens.) You become a human floater in time.

The Celtics don't want to be defeated this year. The stakes are too high for the experienced veterans. Right now, they are clearly the best. If they are challenged, they have the versatility to persevere. Due to their adaptability and their diverse array of talent. If the starters don't beat you, the bench will. If the inside game is fatigued, they have the speed and outside shooting to beat you that way.

Matching Up

Who The Celtics View As Toughest Foes

Coaches, scouts, and players understand that the nature of the team game places a premium on executing as five players on offense, and helping out on defense against these offensive systems. In the National Basketball Association, "No one man can stop another," claims Larry Bird.

"Against a player like Sidney Moncrief," says Dennis Johnson, "I'm always fighting through a series of picks. Not only the ones most people see—when Sidney has the ball, (Moncrief) will start on one side of the court and while guarding him, I'll run into two, three, sometimes even four picks. That's difficult to keep up with, as well as being punishing physically."

"I think what we'll see more of this season is a combination of passing into the post and then even more passing around the perimeter against the double team," says K.C. Jones. Visually, this is the inside-out pass; the ball is passed into the post, and after the defense rushes in to double-team the post player, the ball is passed back outside. K.C. thinks the offense will succeed by passing "four-five times" around the outside. And then, of course, hitting the shot.

Since players are indeed unstoppable one-on-one, double-teaming in the post and helping out after the offensive player penetrates in the lane are of prime importance in the professional game. Good news for coaches and players, but bad PR for writers and front office types who promote the sport. Part of the attractiveness of the game is that there are five players to a team, the action is highly visible (and graceful), and great players are matched up on offense and defense. The NBA forbids officially the zone defense—this legislation retains the last vestiges of man-to-man play.

Yet, players on the Celtics interviewed repeatedly stressed that the importance of the individual defense remains embedded within the team. "Can't do my job defensively," says Danny Ainge, "without help."

Larry Bird is perhaps the most unstoppable player ever—his array of skills (shooting, passing, fast break versatility on the point and wing, rebounding) are varied and he's a superior scorer on top of it. "Michael Cooper gives me the hardest time," says Bird. "He clings to you, stronger than he looks, and he's very determined." Bird is a special case; he is so outstanding that an opposing team must literally sacrifice a player to stop—to try to stop—Larry. Bird will change the game around individually. The opposite example is cited by Sam Vincent, the Celtics' fine young point guard. "Mo Cheeks is tough," says Vincent, "because he can do so many things to burn you. You have to worry about his offense; you're not sure what he'll do, but you have to watch him all the time."

"When he has a good game, it's more subtle. The statistics may not be that outstanding, but he's always hurting you and he's being productive for his team."



Danny Ainge respects Michael Jordan's abilities.

"Two types bother me," says Kevin McHale, the outstanding power forward/post player of the team. "Quick types, like Bernard King and Mark Aguirre. And the power players, like Darryl Dawkins and Jeff Ruland."

"I like to think nobody will stop me over the course of any game. But players do neutralize certain moves. So you have to do something different each time. Maybe any one of eight different offensive moves. If those fail, I'll pass it. And I hate passing! So I'll work harder to get another man some way."

Both Ainge and Rick Carlisle see Michael Jordan as their toughest matchups. "It has to be Jordan," says Carlisle. "He jumps, runs, and he's always looking to score."

"It's Jordan, because he's the whole offense," says Ainge. "Michael has a great left hand, and that overpowering right side drive. Plus he's strong."

"But, I guard mostly point guards, so guys like Isiah Thomas and Spud Webb are hard, too. The team defense must help—and this refutes entire individual matchups. You need help—I do a lot of double teaming. If I double down in the post, and the ball is swung out to the side, the defense has to rotate. That is, the player nearest the ball defensively rotates over to guard that man. So, on our team, if the ball is suddenly pitched back out from Bill Laimbeer to Isiah, and Larry is the closest to Isiah, then Larry is 'one-on-one' with Thomas. It's a team defense."

Yet in the post, the matchups are serious, isolated, physical bordering on violent. "Matchups are tough every night," claims Robert Parish. "Moses Malone is physical, so is Darryl Dawkins. And Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is always looking for his offense. All of them are threats and besides, they all outweigh me."

"I've been helped by Bill Walton's presence. He's a top quality center and I work against him every day in practice." "Robert Parish and Kevin McHale" replies Walton. "Parish is vastly underrated, and McHale is the type of player who makes the players around him better."

Scott Wedman has always seen King as a difficult matchup; his quickness and his desire make him among the best, asserts Wedman. Jerry Sichting ironically, like Walton, viewed the Celtics as his most respected opponents generally. "They always knew the way to win. I don't really think a lot about individuals."

The game defies the individual competition purely, because the individuals are so talented. Cedric Maxwell, while in Boston, used to refer to this as the "help" defense. Players are able to halt offensive geniuses by calling for help.

In a more serious vein, Maxwell offered, "That's why playoffs are so interesting and bring out the best of everybody. You have time to study films of your individual opponent, and study him on a consistent basis. That's when you are really able to see how you can best match another player's moves."

Early Pre-Season Action

GAME ONE PRE-SEASON. Boston 130 - Philadelphia 114. Larry Bird sparked a third period rally as the Celtics opened their pre-season schedule with a sound victory over the 76ers.

Bird ironically enough, began the evening slowly, drawing his 4th personal foul with less than the first period gone. But he sparked later; the Celtics gained their first lead of the season at 24-23 late in the first period, and after a see-saw period through the middle of the game, they assumed control late in the third period.

Bird scored 33 points in the contest, and Robert Parish scored 17 and added 12 rebounds in a strong opening effort. Bird nailed his first six shots of the second half, as the Celtics pulled away from a 69-68 deficit to outscore the Sixers, 33-17 for the remainder of the period.

The contest was the first for the Sixers' new front court, Jeff Ruland, Roy Hinson, and Charles Barkley. Hinson, obtained to battle McHale, was on the bench with only 3:37 gone in the first period. Ruland garnered 19 rebounds for the Sixers.

Kevin McHale had 18 for the Celtics and Fred Roberts impressed with 11 in his Celtic debut.

GAME TWO PRE-SEASON. Boston 115 - Washington 105. In a game which was not as close as the final score indicates, the Celtics breezed to victory, placing seven players in double figures. Larry Bird again sparked the attack, scoring 20, with 12 assists, and 8 rebounds in 34 minutes. The Celtics' running game seemed to be in mid-season

form, reflected in the numerous transition baskets turned in by Danny Ainge (18 points) and Rick Carlisle (16 points). Yet, when the attack shifted to the half-court execution, Kevin McHale applied further pressure, scoring 19 points.

"Our transition game depends on our defense," commented Ainge. To this end, Boston forced the Bullets (playing without Jay Vincent) into 22 turnovers.

"We tried to run with Boston," said Washington Coach Kevin Loughery, "and it did not work." The Celtics tallied 31 points in the transition game.

Boston led throughout and their comfortable margin of victory was built because of an early 10-point streak which gave them a 14-3 lead. The Celtics led by 36-23 at the end of one, and they expanded the lead to 67-39 at the half. Jeff Malone led the Bullets with 20 points and Moses Malone, in his Washington debut against the Celtics, scored 11 points with 13 rebounds.

GAME THREE PRE-SEASON. Boston 101 - Washington 96. Larry Bird scored 24 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to lead the Boston Celtics to a 101-96 win over the Washington Bullets.

The Celtics ran their record to 3-0 in the Pre-Season, defeating the Bullets for the second consecutive game. The Bullets' record fell to 1-3.

Bird scored 10 points in the decisive third period, when the Celtics outscored the Bullets, 32-26, to take a commanding 85-73 lead.

Michael Adams and Jay Murphy, Bos-

ton College players, marked their return to New England with excellent games. Adams sparked two Bullets' rallies, sending the Bullets in front briefly with six second quarter points. He re-entered the contest at the start of the fourth quarter and led a comeback which ultimately cut the C's lead to five points. K.C. Jones, who had inserted the Green Team during the fourth quarter, placed the starters back into the game at that point.

"We had a big lead," Jones said later. "I didn't want to risk losing the game after we had it under control."

Kevin McHale added 16 points for the Celtics and Robert Parish contributed 15 with 7 rebounds.

GAME FOUR PRE-SEASON. Boston 113 - Houston 104. Rick Carlisle continued his strong Pre-Season play by combining with Larry Bird and Robert Parish to key a third period surge. The game was close at half-time, the Celtics leading, 60-56. But the C's outscored the Rockets, their foes in last season's Finals, 11-4 to start the 2nd half. The game marked the return to action of Celtic reserve small forward/off-guard Scott Wedman.

Larry Bird tallied 28 and added 10 rebounds, Kevin McHale tallied 15 with 8 boards, and Robert Parish had 19 points and also grabbed ten rebounds. The Celtics were threatened late in the game, as the Rockets forced some late game substitution by K.C. Jones. But the game was never closer than nine points in the final 2:30 of the contest.





NBA Notebook



By Terry Lyons

Just as the NBA regular season is about to tipoff, so is the Miller Lite/NBA All-Star Voting program. This Wednesday, October 29, will mark the start of the All Star Voting campaign for the 37th annual NBA classic, to be held February 8, 1987 at Seattle. NBA Commissioner David J. Stern will be in Seattle for All-Star Tipoff Day and will participate in a host of civic events, including a keynote speech at the Seattle Rotary Club luncheon. The day will also feature the casting of the first official Miller Lite/NBA All-Star ballot. Tickets for the 37th annual NBA All-Star Game will go on sale Thursday, October 30, at Ticket-Master locations in Washington state. Tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. Pacific time, (1 p.m. Eastern time) and can also be purchased by phone by calling 1-206-628-STAR. Telephone orders will be taken from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Pacific time) Monday through Saturday.

Of course the Boston Celtics have a special event on opening night. The players will receive their championship rings from Commissioner Stern and the 16th World Championship banner will be hoisted to the rafters of Boston Garden in pre-game ceremonies prior to the match-up against Moses Malone and the Washington Bullets. All Celtic fans attending the game will receive a miniature version of the banner, courtesy of WRKO Radio. The Cleveland Cavaliers came up with an interesting advertising campaign featuring their new general manager, Wayne Embry. The ad depicts the powerful presence of the new GM with the catch phrase—One tough Embry... Utah Jazz GM/Coach Frank Layden recently took his annual physical and asked the doctor, "How do I stand?" The reply? "That's what puzzles me."... Chicago's Michael Jordan, who finished off last season with an incredible performance in the Playoffs against the Boston Celtics, says he's really ready for this season. "I'm miles ahead of the last two years," said the Bulls guard. "I think golf relaxed me. It took me away from my profession for a couple of months. Now, my mind is on basketball. I think about it all the time. Last summer, I still played a lot of basketball and maybe I wasn't as hungry as I am this year. It feels like my rookie year, but I'm even more hungry now than I was my rookie season. I don't know why really, but I'm ready to play."

Isiah Thomas of the Detroit Pistons was elected Vice President of the National Basketball Players Association, replacing the retired Quinn Buckner. Other NBPA officers recently re-elected are: President, Junior Bridgeman of the LA Clippers; Vice Presidents, Alex English of the Denver Nuggets, Jim Paxson of the Chicago Bulls and Norm Nixon of the LA Clippers... Thomas, the all-star play-maker of the Pistons, said he's looking forward to playing with forward Adrian Dantley, acquired in an offseason trade that sent Kelly Tripucka and Kent Benson to Utah. "Dantley is going to make it easier for me," said Thomas. "I'd be a fool not to welcome him here. Teams are going to emphasize stopping him, not Isiah Thomas. He should create a lot of open opportunities for me that I didn't have

before."... When Kent Benson was traded to the Jazz, one of his first priorities was to establish, "Kent's Korner" in the Salt Palace. For years Benson purchased a block of 100 tickets in the Pontiac Silverdome and made them available to charitable groups in the area. Now, he'll do

the same in Salt Lake City... Along the same lines, Atlanta center Tree Rollins put up the "Treehouse" at the Omni. Rollins purchased a block of 60 tickets and will make them available to under-privileged kids and charitable groups in the Atlanta area... The Continental Bas-

ketball Association has signed a contract with ESPN calling for the cable sports network to televise 11 games, all live, during the upcoming season. ESPN will continue to air "NBA TODAY," the weekly NBA highlights show throughout the upcoming season.

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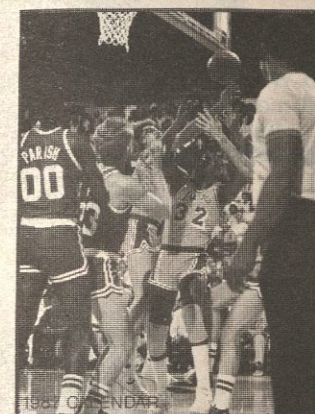
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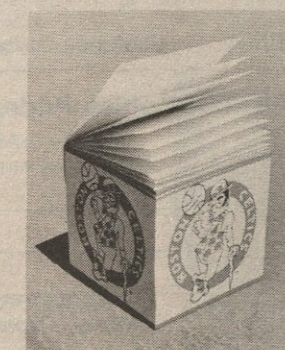
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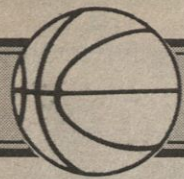
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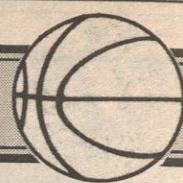
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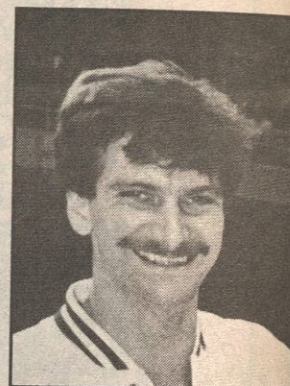


Roundball Spoken Here



Kevin McHale

Kevin McHale compared the Philadelphia 76ers, who made several changes during the off-season, and the Celtics, who have only thirteen men returning to their (championship) camp: "Philadelphia made so many changes, they're going to have a difficult time being ready to play as a unit on opening night. They'll be playing better in the middle of the year than in November. Our goal as a team should be to hit our stride in January and February and really turn it on in the home stretch. It would be easy to be good early with our veteran team. But we want to improve as the year goes on."



Greg Kite

Greg Kite on his role, and the Green Team's role: "It's just part of my job. When we are scrimmaging, we have to be able to challenge the starters because it will make them a better team and it will make the rest of us on the second team much better."



Jerry Sichting

Jerry Sichting on his role coming off the bench: "When you sit alongside guys like Bill Walton and Scott Wedman—and they're both former All-Stars—it is definitely no embarrassment for me to come off the bench. I knew that was my role to begin with, and I think that is one of the strengths of our team. For the most part, everybody knows what their job is going to be before the season starts."



Bill Walton

Bill Walton on his love for the game: "If you would ask what I would rather do in life beyond anything else, I would say it is to play basketball. If I could, I would play the game all my life. There is just something special about the game for me, especially with this team."

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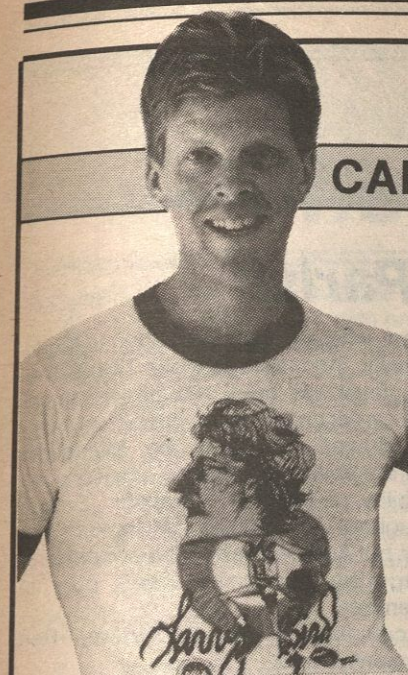
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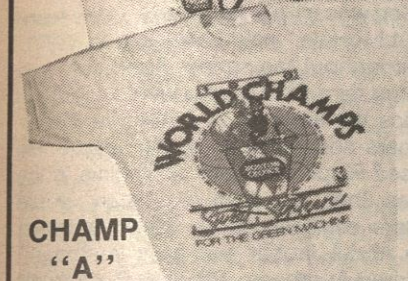
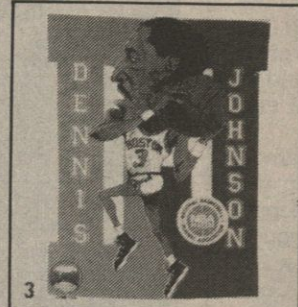
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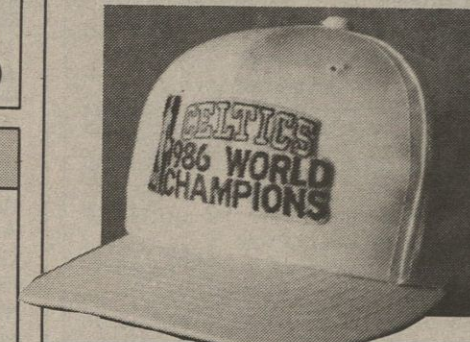
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Celtics Classics

Drafting Kevin McHale and Acquiring Robert Parish

When the Boston Celtics obtained Kevin McHale and Robert Parish in thirty-six hours during the 1980 College Draft, the team completed another phase of the championship dynasty in Boston. McHale, the 3rd choice in the whole draft, and Parish, acquired from the Golden State Warriors in exchange for the Celtics' original selection in the draft (the first), represented the new era in professional basketball. They were 6-11 and 7-foot respectively, were very physical, and could rule the inside area.

The Celtics' organization had learned the rough facts of NBA life during the 1979-80 Playoffs. The Celtics had performed a miracle during the regular season that year—rebounding from a 29-53 record in the previous year, the Celts won the regular season championship with a 61-21 performance. But in the post-season, the Bird Team was overpowered in the Eastern Conference finals by Daryl Dawkins of the Philadelphia 76ers. It was sad; the Celtics, led by Bird, Dave Cowens, Tiny Archibald, and Cedric Maxwell, had played like Cinderella all year. In the Playoffs, however, Julius Erving, Caldwell Jones, and Dawkins left them behind,



Robert Parish filled the gap at center.

Amazing Grace and Chuck English

A passage of the film "Amazing Grace and Chuck" was performed at the Boston Garden before and during the Celtics' opening Pre-Season game against the Philadelphia 76ers, October 10th. The motion picture, about activism against nuclear proliferation, stars Denver Nugget star basketball player, Alex English. As part of the role, English is a Boston Celtic. He donned the Celtic Green and White for the segment, which was shot in two parts.

The first involved a ten-minute controlled scrimmage before the actual game. English, wearing Cedric Maxwell's former (and Fred Roberts' present) number 31, played with Rick Carlisle, Sam Vincent, Greg Kite, and Roberts against the Sixers. The first scene featured English scoring on a 25' outside jumper. He missed the first several times—the early crowd at the Garden was asked to cheer as if the game was a "real" one. After each sequence, make or miss, English turned to go back on defense, and exchanged high fives with Vincent.

The second part of the filming took place during the first two minutes of the second quarter, when Celtic Coach K.C. Jones inserted English into the game to play for two minutes. Again, to insure continuity, K.C. played Alex with the same Celtics. This time, the game was spontaneous, "real-life." In the two minutes, English was 1-1 from the field (a turn-around 12' baseline jump). He also had two assists and a steal.

Because Larry Bird had drawn his fourth personal foul in the first quarter of this practice game, there was almost a hint

of temptation in Jones to leave Alex in longer. "Dennis (Johnson) mentioned that," smiled English later. "He said, 'Now, you're going to get some real minutes.'"

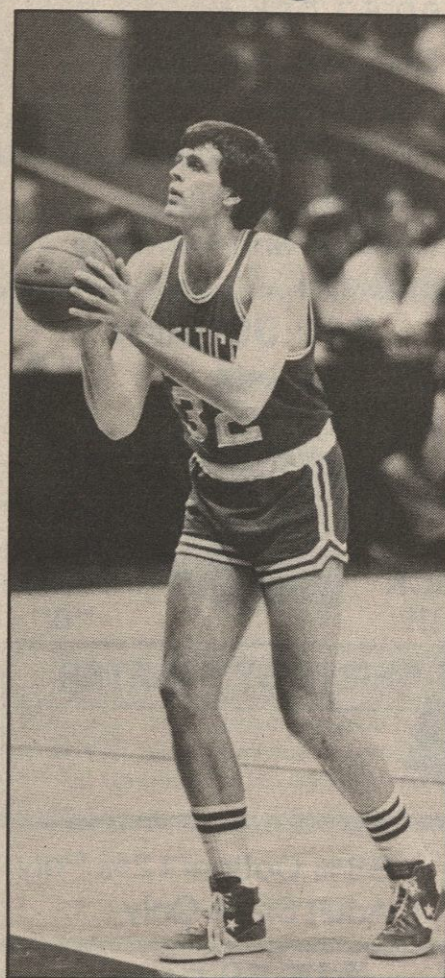
The National Basketball Association staged an informal press conference during the half, and English answered questions about playing with the Celtics, his theater career, and the social responsibilities of an athlete.

"I was honored to play with the Celtics, and they were very warm in receiving me. However, I was reluctant to intrude on their domain. I stayed out of their locker room during the pre-game talk. They were gracious enough to allow me to wear their uniform."

"Acting is difficult, and it requires the same hard work that an athletic career requires. Mike Newell, the director, is my acting coach. I told him he reminds me of Doug Moe (English's Denver Nugget Coach). He was always screaming and hollering at me."

"But the experience has been very meaningful. I think I would be able to step into acting fairly easily after I'm through playing, although I want to play another five years. I would have a strong idea of what to do as an actor, having done this role."

"It's given me a better feeling about the responsibility of athletes socially, being in a public role. I think there is a responsibility for athletes to be seen and heard in issues which are important for the survival of the planet. I think we are respected and have credibility. I was able to gain a strong sense of my character in the film, and it has had a positive effect on me personally."



Kevin McHale: Red couldn't stop talking about him.

in the darkness.

The Celtics regrouped instantly. In a *Boston Globe* article the following Tuesday after the Celtics were eliminated, Red Auerbach declared publicly that the Celtics had had a "great" season, one to build on. Proud publicly, Auerbach was stung privately. The team had been close, and until a title is won, there is thinking to do.

The genesis of the eighties era champions actually had begun earlier. Besides the drafting of Bird as a future, Auerbach had maneuvered to obtain the top choice in the entire 1980 draft. He had signed Free Agent M.L. Carr of the Detroit Pistons during the summer of 1979; craftily, he utilized the Pistons' interest in Celtic Bob McAdoo to wrest a number 1 choice. When the Pistons finished 16-66, that selection was the 1980 First.

The Celtics were dealing with premium choices that year and the three best players in the draft had different, sharp, and superior abilities. Joe Barry Carroll of Purdue was a strong center but had an enigmatic personality. Auerbach was drawn to him initially purely because the player was seven feet tall. Darrell Griffith had led the Louisville Cardinals to the NCAA title in April of that season. Griffith, at 6-4, had refined his game during his final year in school by adding ballhandling skill to his array of shooting and jumping abilities. Also in his favor: he had played under Denny Crum and the Celtic President has traditionally been attracted to

players who are well coached in college.

Finally, there was McHale. The Minnesota player had been outstanding earlier in his career as a Gopher, but a knee injury had slowed him and the Minnesota program had had problems regarding the eligibility of Mychal Thompson. Scouts throughout the league overlooked him early; but Auerbach and then-owner Harry Mangurian had seen Kevin play in December.

"I couldn't stop talking about him," Red commented later.

"Red was telling everybody on the team about McHale," said Larry Bird in 1980.

Throughout the spring, Auerbach was hunting for a Center who would allow the Celtics the strength to battle the Abdul-Jabbar and Malones of the league. He chased Ralph Sampson at Virginia in the hopes that the then freshman would declare eligibility early. "He's far better than Abdul-Jabbar was as a freshman," declared Auerbach. Although the Virginia team won the NIT over McHale's Minnesota squad and Sampson was named MVP (playing with added confidence because the Celtics were pursuing him?), Sampson decided to remain in school. McHale played Sampson well in New York although bothered with a bad back.

The pace quickened in May and June. A month after the season ended, McHale played in the Honolulu post-season graduate tournament and was named MVP (his injuries healed).

Meanwhile, Golden State and Utah finished at the bottom of the league and were slated to draft 2-3 behind the Celtics. The Warriors had Parish—but were anxious to trade the young center. Ironically, they were interested in Carroll, a young center, without ever allowing Parish a chance to develop. Parish had been the 8th choice in the entire draft in 1976; since that season, the Warriors made 24 roster changes and never developed a continuity around the four-year veteran. Bill Fitch, Coach of the Celtics at that time, was solidly behind the decision to go after Parish.

Because Auerbach envisioned McHale as the ideal tall power forward: a player with long arms, aggressiveness on both boards, and shot-blocking ability like his idol in school William Theodore Walton. Fitch had seen Parish block 11 shots against his Cleveland Cavs team in 1976—he already had experienced Parish's potential.

Through a flurry of last minute phone calls, the Celtics received assurances that the Warriors, if they had the top choice in the draft, would take Carroll. Utah coveted Griffith; he had marketability and was fresh from winning a championship. The deal was struck one day before the draft: The Celtics traded the top choice in the draft to the Warriors, along with the 13th selection in the first round, in exchange for Parish and the Warriors choice in the first round.

On draft day, the Warriors selected Carroll, the Jazz took Griffith, and Auerbach had McHale. That day, the pieces of the championship puzzle were locked securely in place for the next six years.

The Chief's Pre-Season Preparation

This is the mysterious one of the Celtics. Often silent with probing stare in public persona, Robert Parish is the fresh flowing stream in the Celtic clubhouse. Easy laughter, poking fun at his teammates, highly intelligent and highly sensitive to the personalities of his teammates. Parish does guard his communications with the media, and has suffered bad press at the slightest provocation. Example: Game 3 in last year's The Finals, when Parish played a bad game, he was being framed as "the reason" the Celtics would become a fallen favorite. But as he had done in Game 7 of the 1984 finals against Los Angeles, Parish turned in another superior performance in the next game. 10-15 from the field, 10 rebounds, 3 blocks. The Celtics won the critical road game. Parish recounts some highlights of the pre-season.

October 1. We worked out informally to prepare for the beginning of training camp, October 3rd. You begin getting ready physically and mentally this time of year, anyhow, but especially this year. I was very relaxed last season, particularly when the season began its normal rhythms. K.C. discovered a consistent way of using Bill Walton and myself, and I felt fresh all season. Several of the players were around in the final week leading up to camp: Rick Carlisle, Greg Kite, Danny Ainge, Bill Walton, Jerry Sichting, Sam Vincent, Larry Bird, and David Thirdkill. Apparently, Thirdkill is facing some pressure right now; the team has twelve players under some kind of guarantee and he's up against it. We talked for a long while after the scrimmage at Hellenic today. Nothing serious, fooling around, talking about cars and former teammates. This time of year can be a very tense time. There is nothing you can say. You just hope everybody plays as well as they can and the verdict comes out reasonably fairly.

October 7. The key to our team this year is health. I expect we will be in the hunt all year and expect a very challenging season. My wife Nancy has been in Los Angeles for a month, finishing work on a jazz album. Being away has been hard on her—I'm used to being on the road and I have an understanding of what she's going through. I'm used to it, I handle it better. But I do get a sense of what it's like for her when I'm on road trips. (Our son Justin is in school out in Los Angeles with Nancy.) There is some serious alone time involved. I don't mind that. But cooking, cleaning, running all the errands is taking some getting used to.

October 9. We had yesterday afternoon off, after practicing two times a day for four straight days. Stiffness and soreness. Also, the Green Team, without Bill Walton and Scott Wedman who are injured, have played very well against the starters. The workouts have been very competitive.

My routine has been practice, and then treatment. I've used the galvanic treatment for my back, and the whirlpool and sauna for my general stiffness.

At night, I've seen some movies—"Stand By Me," "Avening Forces," "Crocodile Dundee." Training camp is the right length

now; tomorrow night we play the 76ers, who have made several changes on their team. It will be good to play a different team and begin the season.

October 12. We played back-to-back games over the weekend—after we played the Sixers we traveled for a game against the Bullets in Baltimore. We played with Alex English of the Nuggets as part of the film "Amazing Grace and Chuck" on Friday night which was different. Also different: I worked for several minutes in the second quarter with the Green Team. I thought we played very well during that stretch. I felt all right—hustling working on different parts of my game.

The following night was the same story against Moses Malone. The man is tough, always has been. The idea in the pre-season is to get your work in and refine your timing. It's been somewhat challenging this season so far. Walton's been

out—so I don't want to push things too far, too fast. I'm competitive; when our running game was clicking against Washington, I was getting out on the break, as if it were mid-season. I enjoy playing this game, simple as that. When the games are played out in any structured form, I'm going to play the game the right way.

October 15. We defeated the Bullets, 101-96 in Providence last night—it's our third win against no defeats. We worked hard for most of the night and got the win, but sometimes you don't want to go out there. Teams will always be after you when you're the champion: we learned that in 1982. We learned that in 1985. I wore down almost completely that year. When the meaningful time arrived against the Lakers in the final series that year, I had become too tired to muscle with Kareem.

We had a quick workout at 10 a.m. this morning. We hustled through some offen-

sive sets, scrimmaged briefly, and worked some more on defense. I think we're in the right frame of mind mentally for the season, but it's very important for this team to remain patient and focused on the goal at the end of the season. It's a long season; you need to work things out on the floor, and then play and joke around off of it. It's an uncommon feeling; again, after practice, I'm home without the family. My family didn't visit us this summer, as they normally do. My dad was busy back home and they didn't get up to Boston. The profession is a discipline of mixed emotions. There is the glamour, but there is the necessity of being alone and saying goodbye when you're off on the road again.

The game remains fun, and the people I'm associated with make it continue to be that way. And chasing the championship ring again—particularly when the regular season starts—makes the year become much more meaningful.

By the Numbers

The Celtics opened the Pre-Season schedule impressively, winning their first four contests against three of their strongest contenders for championship honors this season. The Celts are playing these games with their basic unit intact—there are disadvantages as well as advantages to this ploy. There is little margin for error, so Coach Jones is often tempted to push the team to win every game. This is what the goal is of any athletic contest, of course; but in the Pre-Season, the coaching maneuvers are designed more to find out about your team. In appearances, this makes Jones' task more difficult: i.e., how do you experiment with your front-line team and if you do, how do you handle losing, if experimenting is the main goal of the practice schedule? The Celts are rolling; without needing to look at players who are competing for a spot on the roster, as are their opponents, Boston led virtually the entire way in each of their four opening wins.

Danny Ainge. Ainge began the new season with his acquired confidence from a season ago. He keyed a second half running game in the first win over Philadelphia, scoring 11 points with 5 rebounds and 4 assists. Best scoring effort was 18 points at Washington. Followed this with 13-point, 5-assist, 2-rebound 2-steal effort in return match with Bullets.

Larry Bird. Larry Bird struggled out of the gate—for one quarter, when he picked up 4 personal fouls in the opening stanza against Philadelphia. This minute deviation awoke the great one: 13-18 from the field in that opener for 33 points. 20 points, 12 rebounds, 8 assists at Washington, 24 points, 12 rebounds in return match, and 28 points, 10 rebounds against Houston. 3 steals in each Bullets game.

Rick Carlisle. From early appearances, he will enact a larger role for the team this

year. 16 points, including 2-2 from 3-point range, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 assist at Washington. Followed this with 13 point game against Rockets.

Dennis Johnson. Directs the offense from the backcourt and still plays outstanding physical defense. Best scoring games were 10 points against Washington, in Baltimore and in the return match at Providence. Added 3 assists and a steal against Bullets at Baltimore and keyed the Celtics running game that night in the team's best effort in that offense this Pre-Season.

Greg Kite. Kite's incessant work for three seasons finally is reflecting dividends. 10 points, 5 rebounds, 2 blocks, 2 assists at Washington. 5 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 block in return match. 5 points, 4 rebounds, 1 block against Philadelphia. His confidence level is higher and he is finally getting some calls (and non-calls) from officials.

Kevin McHale. Averaged 17 points in opening four contests. His inside game in the set offense is one of the vital keys to the team's success. 19 points, 6 rebounds, 6 blocked shots at Washington. 16 points, 5 rebounds, 3 blocks, 2 assists in return match; 18 points, 4 rebounds, 3 blocks in opener against Sixers, 15 points, 8 rebounds against Houston.

Robert Parish. In the opening game of this season, Parish held the team together in the 2nd quarter (Bird with 4 PF, the Sixers and the Celtics out-of-synch, groping for direction). Parish has put numbers on the board, too, with Bill Walton sidelined early. 17 points, 12 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals in that first game; 15 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 blocks in Providence game against Bullets, 19 points, 10 rebounds against Houston.

Fred Roberts. Will play a classic Celtic relief role for this team. Reports are that he can shoot the ball well from face-up area. 11 points, 6 rebounds against Sixers; 12 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 block at Washington.

Jerry Sichting. Born-again Celtic playing well. 10 points, 2 assists and strong floor game against Philadelphia. Best effort was in away Washington contest: 6 points, 4 assists, 3 steals in attacking Celtic offense. Injured back before return Washington game. Returned to action against Houston and played another strong floor game, scoring 4 with 4 assists.

David Thirdkill. Fighting for a position on the team and playing well, in practices and in limited minutes in games. Injured ankle, unfortunately, before first Pre-Season game and was forced to miss that game and contest at Washington. Some great minutes, however, against Washington in Providence, 22 minutes, 12 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal and 1 block. Lifted the team against Houston, supplying emotional thrust with left-handed dunk over Olajuwon in 4th quarter give-and-take scoring action.

Sam Vincent. One of team goals should be how to best utilize Vincent's abilities. This is a near 20 ppg career scorer in college who is trying to earn the point guard responsibilities. If this is the goal of the team, so be it. But progress on all fronts might take time. 8 points, 4 steals in opener against Sixers, 4 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists against Washington in Providence after 2-point, 2-assist, 2-rebound effort at Baltimore against the Bullets. Still learning, still skillful.

Scott Wedman. Recovering still from off-season heel surgery. But Wedman returned to action against Houston and played very well, scoring 8 points on 4-6 shooting in 11 minutes. Expected to return to lineup slowly.



Revolving Doors Evaluating This Summer's Trades

When the Celtics face the Atlantic Division archrival Philadelphia 76ers this year, they won't have to worry about contending with Moses Malone anymore. The stalwart center has vacated the City of Brotherly Love.

But Malone hasn't gone very far—he's still in the same division, in fact. The night before the draft, Malone was traded, along with power forward Terry Catledge, for center/forward Jeff Ruland and forward Cliff Robinson. The Bullets also got the 21st overall pick in the draft, which turned out to be UNLV's Anthony Jones.

This has to rank as one of the most shocking and baffling trades in NBA history. Not only is Malone one of the top centers to ever grace the NBA, but trading within your own division (especially a player of this caliber) is something that front office personnel in all sports zealously try to avoid.

So who can make logic out of what 76er owner Harold Katz is trying to do? He also dealt the league's top overall pick, Brad Daugherty, to the Cleveland Cavaliers for forward Roy Hinson. With moves like this, about the only thought that comes to mind is Katz is trying to trim his club's hefty payroll.

It's also no secret that he and Malone weren't getting along particularly well. Katz has suggested on occasion that Malone can't do it like he once could, an assertion which has rankled Malone, a proud and hardworking player.

"I don't know why Katz won't admit it," Malone said. "I was a great player for him. He won't admit it."

It didn't take the 31-year-old Malone long to get into the swing of things with the Bullets. He immediately began looking upon the Sixers as the enemy, and has promised to make Katz pay for shipping him.

At a press conference, Malone was presented with a number 2 jersey, the same as he wore in Philadelphia. But he shortly announced that he wanted to wear number 4.

"I don't want Harold to get any ideas," Malone said.

Malone then rubbed the Bullet jersey. "Hmm," he said. "This has got better cloth than the 76er jersey."

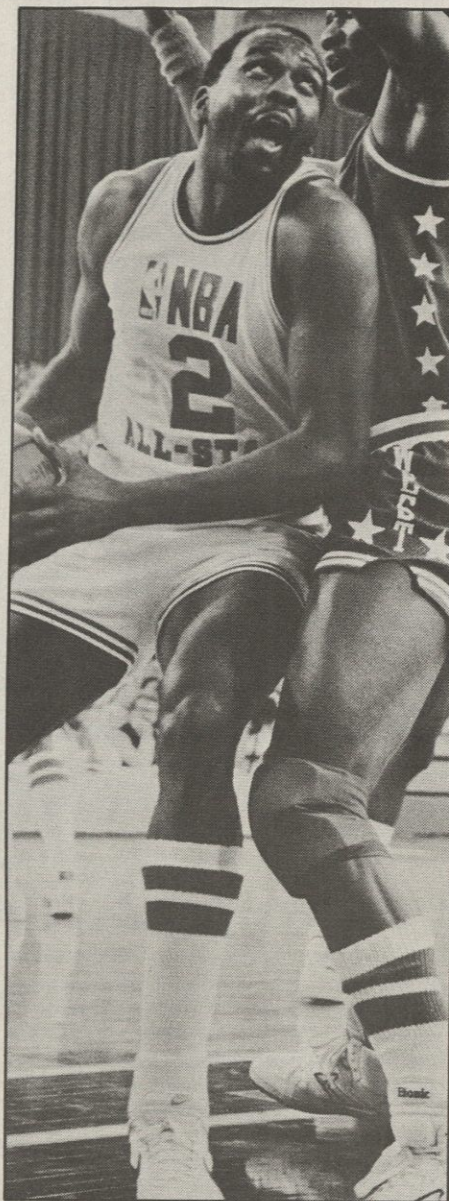
"I'm not sad at all to be traded," said Malone, a three-time MVP. Philly had the first and 21st pick and traded 'em all away. I figured Katz would trade me to an Eastern Conference team—he's very cocky. Now he's gotta face me six times."

"This is a great organization, not like the one in Philadelphia."

While Washington gave up two quality players in Ruland and Robinson, general manager Bob Ferry is thrilled about the transaction.

"I don't think in the history of the franchise we've done anything as dramatic," Ferry said. "This is something real spectacular. Just because Boston has a great team doesn't mean we should surrender."

The Bullets made other moves which they think will hoist them into the NBA



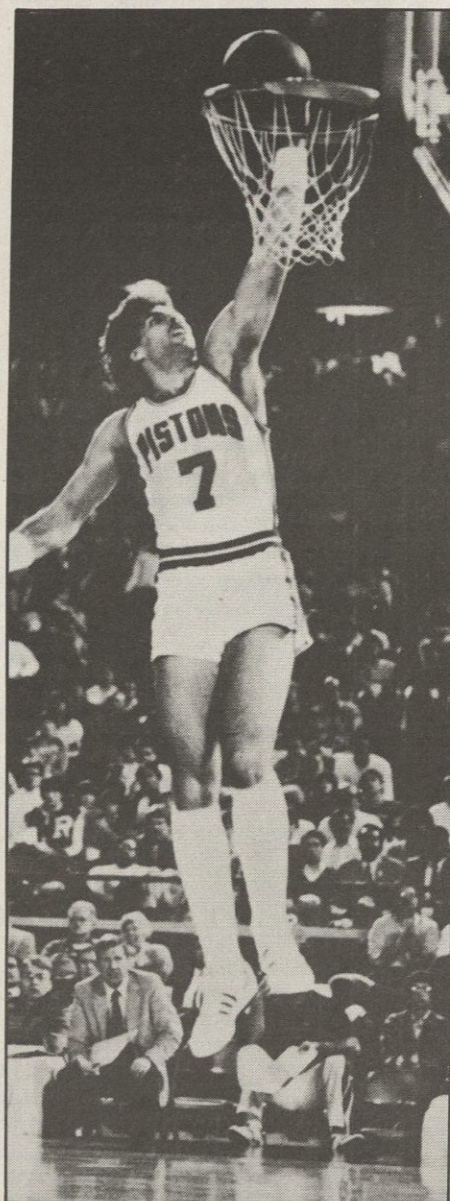
Moses has a mission.

elite. Washington picked up high-scoring small forward Jay Vincent from the Dallas Mavericks for a future first-round draft pick, and guard Darwin Cook from the New Jersey Nets for future considerations.

The Sixers were busy reshaping their team also. They acquired forward Danny Vranes and forward/center Tim McCormick, both former first-round picks, from the Seattle SuperSonics for frontcourter Clemon Johnson and Philly's number-one pick in the 1989 draft.

"Clemon gives us more of what (Coach) Bernie Bickerstaff is looking for," Sonics president Bob Whitsitt said. "He's very physical, has inside strength and championship experience. We're looking forward to pushing toward making the playoffs. Bernie feels we needed a guy to push people around inside. Plus, we now have three number-one picks in 1989. We can either keep them or bargain them. This gives us strong position in the future."

Said Bickerstaff: "We aren't just dealing players for the sake of dealing players. Johnson is known around the East as a very physical player. One of our problems



Tripucka joins the Jazz Quartet.

last year was we got banged around a lot."

But that didn't prevent the Sonics from sending a noted banger, center Jack Sikma, to the Milwaukee Bucks for center Alton Lister and a couple of future first-rounders. Seattle also gave up two seconds in the deal.

Sikma had given Seattle plenty of good service throughout the years and helped the Sonics win an NBA title in 1978-79. But he had grown tired of the Sonics losing over the last couple of seasons and wanted to be moved to a contender.

"Lister is big, mobile and intimidating," Bickerstaff said. "We get our wish for an intimidating shot blocker, a center who can run the floor and trigger the fast break."

Another NBA Central Division team, the Detroit Pistons, also made a trade of huge notice. They sent All-Star forward Kelly Tripucka and frontliner Kent Benson, a former first overall pick, to the Utah Jazz for two-time scoring champ, ex-Rookie of the Year and former Comeback Player of the Year Adrian Dantley. The Pistons also gained two future second-round picks in the swap.

What's odd about this trade is neither Tripucka nor Piston Coach Chuck Daly learned about the trade first hand. Tripucka was at a golf tournament when a kid came into the locker room and yelled to a friend about the swap—Tripucka overheard the conversation.

Daly was driving to Penn State with his daughter when he heard about the deal on a radio broadcast.

"We feel fortunate we were able to get a high scorer in Tripucka and a strong backup center in Benson," Jazz Coach/General Manager Frank Layden said. "He's also a player with playoff experience. Tripucka may prove to be an even better player than he was in Detroit."

"He'll be helped by our shot blockers in the front line (Karl Malone, Mark Eaton, Thurl Bailey) and our style of play may prove to be conducive to his style of play."

"I'm excited about this fresh start. I feel we're a stronger team today than we were yesterday."

That Dantley was traded was no big shock. He and Layden had an up-and-down relationship, although this didn't stop Dantley from producing on the court.

Layden, who spent some time in a weight-reduction clinic this summer, showed his patented sense of humor in light of the trade.

"I lost 220 pounds this summer," he said. "I traded Dantley."

The prospects of moving to Salt Lake City probably wasn't a laughing matter to Tripucka at first. However, it seems as if he's going to make the best of it.

"My reaction is positive," Tripucka said. "I look at it like this—someone didn't want my services and someone else does."

Said Daly: "Tripucka will be fine when it (the shock of being traded) wears off. We're living in a cruel world. He'll be fine—his pride is jolted. You have to realize getting traded is part of pro sports."

There were reports that Tripucka, like Dantley, was less than pleased at his previous work station.

"I wasn't unhappy in Detroit," Tripucka said. "That's a strong word."

Well, what word would you use then? "Things were, let's say, erratic."

Dantley will be working with people familiar to him in Detroit. General Manager Jack McCloskey was an assistant coach at Los Angeles when Dantley played for the Lakers, and Daly tried to recruit Dantley for the University of Pennsylvania.

"I'm excited about the possibilities in Detroit," Dantley said. "Whatever happened in Utah is now the past. I'm looking forward to being a member of the Pistons and continuing my career here."

"I think I can adjust to any style of basketball the Pistons want to play. Since Chuck has been coach, the team has utilized Isiah's (point guard Isiah Thomas) talent of running with the ball, I like that style of play—I just want to fit it."

Will Moses, Dantley and the others fit in with their new employers? Stay tuned. The answers to those questions and more will unfold as the season gets underway.



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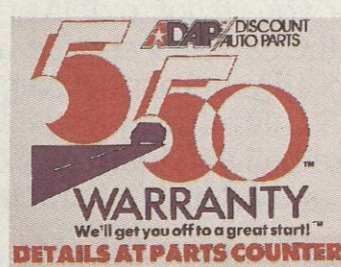
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